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Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic and on the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in that country

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to the request of the Security Council contained in the statement issued by its President on 26 September 2001 (S/PRST/2001/25), in which the Council requested me to keep it regularly informed of the activities of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in the Central African Republic and the situation in that country. The report builds on my previous report (S/2012/374) of 29 May 2012, and provides an update on developments in political, security, socioeconomic, humanitarian, human rights, child protection and gender issues as well as on the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA).

II. Political situation

2. Since my last report, the political environment has evolved significantly. National stakeholders resumed dialogue, which led to the consensual adoption of an election management body. In addition, the Convention des patriotes pour la justice et la paix (CPJP), a national rebel group, finally acceded to the 2008 Libreville Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

3. After two national workshops set up to review the Electoral Code, in November 2011 and January 2012, the President of the Central African Republic, François Bozizé, instructed the Minister for Territorial Administration and Decentralization to continue discussions with political parties from the presidential majority and the opposition and relevant civil society organizations. In this context, a third workshop was held from 10 to 13 September with the facilitation of national and international electoral experts from the African Union, the International Organization of la Francophonie and the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. The participants agreed on the establishment of an independent and permanent elections management body, the Autorité nationale des élections, composed of seven members. The active involvement of my Special Representative, the former President of Burundi, Pierre Buyoya, as the Special Envoy of the International Organization of la Francophonie,

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the Special Representative of the President of the Commission of the African Union, the Ambassadors of France and the United States of America and the Representative of the European Union Delegation, was critical in helping to ease tension and break the deadlock in the positions of the various parties.

4. The positive political environment that was created persisted through a fourth workshop held from 24 to 27 September. With the support of BINUCA and the participation of electoral experts dispatched to Bangui by the International Organization of la Francophonie, the African Union and the United Nations, the participants from the Central African Republic approved a revised draft electoral code. At the time of the report, the draft electoral code was before the National Assembly for consideration.

5. During the period under review, President Bozizé replaced two ministers accused of plotting a coup d'état: his nephew, the Minister of State for Finance and Budget, and the Minister of Justice and Moralization, replaced on 1 June and 16 July, respectively. The Minister for Finance, considered one of the most influential figures in the regime, had been deemed a possible contender for succession to the President. Both dismissed ministers have left the country and no investigations have been initiated based on the allegations.

6. On 25 August, after a year of negotiations with the Government, CPJP, as noted above, finally acceded to the 2008 Libreville Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The signing of the Agreement marked a turning point for the political and security environment of the Central African Republic, as CPJP had been the last national armed group outside the framework. In addition, it provided opportunities for the launch of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration activities in the north-east part of the country.

7. On 19 September, the National Assembly adopted a strategy to fight corruption, which includes, inter alia, the ratification of the United Nations Convention against Corruption; the establishment of a national authority to fight corruption composed of representatives of the Government, the private sector and civil society; the harmonization of national legislation with international standards; training and capacity-building of civil servants; and the development of codes of conduct.

8. From 29 to 31 October, the Central African Republic-Chad Commission held its thirteenth session in N'Djamena. The Commission discussed security challenges during the transhumance period, taxation issues and the repatriation of 70,000 Central African refugees from Chad. Subsequently, the two countries signed 10 agreements on, inter alia, customs and movement of cattle. In addition, the Minister for Territorial Administration and Decentralization reported to the press that the repatriation of the special forces of Chad deployed in Bangui in 2003 to reinforce the Presidential Guard had been agreed upon.

9. During the reporting period, the founder and former president of the Union des forces démocratiques pour le rassemblement (UFDR), Michel Djotodia, returned to the Central African Republic after six years in exile and was reinstated as the leader of UFDR. He reaffirmed his commitment to the 2008 Libreville Comprehensive Peace Agreement and to the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process. However, on 10 December, elements associated with UFDR attacked the towns of Ndélé, Sam Ouandja and Ouadda in the north-east, in serious violation of the

Agreement. Elements of the Chadian National Army crossed into the Central African Republic in the Ouham prefecture on 17 December at the request of the Government of the Central African Republic to support the counteroffensive of the Central African Armed Forces (FACA).

III. Support to national mediation efforts

10. The National Council for Mediation played a significant role in the signing, on 8 September, of an agreement on the voluntary repatriation of the Chadian rebel leader of the Front populaire pour le redressement (FPR), Baba Laddé, and his group. Following a request of the leader of FPR to discuss with the authorities of Chad the terms of his return to his country, the national mediator led a Central African delegation, which included Baba Laddé himself, in a three-day negotiation in N'Djamena. The parties agreed that the FPR fighters, still in the territory of the Central African Republic, would return to Chad within a one-month period. BINUCA and the Mission de Consolidation de la Paix of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (MICOPAX) provided logistic and technical support for the repatriation of the leader of FPR, at the request of the Government.

11. In October, the National Council for Mediation, upon instruction from the President, coordinated a Government plan to repatriate FPR combatants and their dependants from the Central African Republic. In the ensuing process, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP) catered for the humanitarian needs of the families of the FPR combatants. The Government of Chad has reportedly announced a package of incentives to encourage the return of the remaining Chadian FPR elements. However, the latest reports indicated that a sizeable number of former FPR rebels have returned to the Central African Republic.

12. In an effort to prevent conflicts from escalating into violence, the National Council for Mediation proposed the establishment of local mediation councils in the majority of the 16 prefectures of the country to mediate military, political, economic and social disputes. BINUCA will provide financial support to the mediation cells through extrabudgetary funds. To date, four local mediation councils have been established, in Birao (Vakaga prefecture), Bria (Haute-Kotto), Kaga-Bandoro (Nana-Gribizi) and Ndélé (Bamingui-Bangoran). Four additional cells are envisaged to be established, in Bouar (Nana-Mambéré prefecture), Markounda (Ouham), Obo (Haut-Mbomou) and Zako (Ouaka).

IV. Security situation

13. During the period under review, the security situation continued to improve in most parts of the country, which allowed the United Nations to resume its activities in the Vakaga prefecture. However, security concerns remained at a high level in the northern parts of the country, where new armed groups appear to transit freely, and in the Haut-Mbomou prefecture, where the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) remained active. The recent attacks by UFDR in the north-east have exacerbated insecurity in this region.

14. On 2 August, a peaceful protest by disgruntled youth against the process of recruitment into the armed forces quickly degenerated into violence in some neighbourhoods in Bangui. The prison of N'Garagba was attacked and over 500 detainees escaped. The demonstrators also ransacked the office of the Mayor and destroyed a statue of the President. Their action was explained by the fact that they had been assured that they would be recruited upon payment of a sum of FCFA 5,000 (approximately $10), a substantial amount by Central African standards.

15. The volatility of the security situation in the western and north-western parts of the country remained a serious concern. Reports from United Nations entities operating in the regions indicated the presence of new armed groups allegedly linked to the Front démocratique du peuple centrafricain (FDPC). The groups allegedly tried to recruit demobilized combatants in the area. Fortunately, the launch of the reinsertion programme, with funds made available by the Peacebuilding Fund, has changed the social dynamics in the region, leading to resistance to new recruitments by the local communities.

16. The Ombella Mpoko prefecture, once considered the safest place in the country, is now marked by the presence of an armed group which is operating close to the capital. On 15 September, a splinter faction of CPJP, CPJP fondamentale, which includes former members of the Armed Forces and of the Presidential Guard, attacked the towns of Damara (approximately 90 kilometres north of Bangui), Sibut (160 kilometres north of Bangui) and Dékoa (230 kilometres north of Bangui). The group, estimated at 100 elements, targeted the gendarmerie and the bases of the armed forces, where they collected weapons, as well as the hospital, a gas station and a commercial bank.

17. In July and November, incidents occurred between the Forces armées centrafricain (FACA) and Chadian troops comprising the regional tripartite Central African/Chadian/Sudanese force stationed in the Vakaga prefecture, in the Central African Republic. The incidents resulted in five deaths and five injuries. In Bangui, in July, two Central African policemen were shot dead by Chadian elements of MICOPAX in retaliation for the killing of a Chadian member of the regional force.

V. Lord's Resistance Army

18. There were consistent reports of an increased LRA presence in the south-eastern region of the Central African Republic. It is alleged that they are coming from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan. Thus far in 2012, 48 presumed LRA attacks were carried out, leading to 24 deaths and 85 abductions, some of the abductees being held for short periods of time to transport looted goods. As a result of LRA activities in the Central African Republic, there are 21,000 internally displaced persons and 2,400 refugees.

19. In September, the Government made available 300 troops to the African Union Regional Task Force to counter the LRA threat. They are stationed in Obo, Haut-Mbomou prefecture of the Central African Republic, alongside the Ugandan People's Defence Forces and military advisers from the United States of America. The Government plans to increase its participation in the African Union Regional Task Force by deploying 300 additional troops.

20. During the reporting period, BINUCA and international partners provided support to the national authorities in the Central African Republic for the elaboration of a national strategy on LRA. These international efforts notwithstanding, a number of serious challenges remain, mainly relating to the funding of the new force and the existence of security gaps in south-eastern Central African Republic and north-eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, which allow the LRA to operate easily.

21. BINUCA has strengthened its monitoring activities, in collaboration with national, regional and international partners. At the end of May 2012, BINUCA deployed two consultants to Obo, and has reinforced its coordination capacity on LRA issues. The World Bank provided funding for an additional consultant in Bangui; and coordination has been greatly enhanced among BINUCA, the Government, the African Union, the World Bank and the international LRA working group.

VI. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

22. On 30 June, the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Steering Committee officially approved the reinsertion strategy in the north-western region. The programme is funded through the emergency window of the Peacebuilding Fund and implemented by the National Coordination for Reintegration of the Ministry of Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and BINUCA. The programme has aimed at consolidating peace and stability in the areas where demobilized combatants have settled, as well as reinforcing social cohesion within the host communities. Meanwhile, the implementation of the programme of reintegration of former combatants in the north-west is currently under way. A total of 4,796 former Armée populaire pour la restauration de la démocratie (APRD) combatants were registered for reinsertion activities in, inter alia, agriculture, trade and crafts and small business enterprise development. They also received an initial subsistence allowance of $40. The programme is facilitated by local disarmament, demobilization and reintegration committees and outreach volunteers and covers 140 villages and local communities.

23. In June, a memorandum of understanding on the provision of food was signed by the National Coordination for Reintegration, WFP and BINUCA. In this context, assistance is being provided to 4,805 ex-combatants and their families. WFP is looking for additional resources to ensure that the assistance continues beyond 31 December 2012.

24. The Government absorbed 45 ex-combatants from the former APRD into the Central African armed forces, despite the absence of a clear security sector reform strategy. International observers raised this issue during negotiations in August between the Government and CPJP, which led to the adoption of a recommendation for the establishment of a joint committee to elaborate a strategy for the integration of ex-combatants into the defence and security forces.

25. In the north-east, the disarmament and demobilization exercises are planned to commence at the end of the rainy season. The process will focus on the Mouvement de libération centrafricain pour la justice (MLCJ), the Union des forces démocratiques pour le rassemblement (UFDR) and CPJP. In September, the

Government started discussing, with BINUCA, UNDP, the African Union and the European Union, the planning phase for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration operations in this region. The Ministry in charge of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration has prepared a plan that foresees the conclusion of the disarmament and demobilization exercises by the end of March 2013.

26. Following the meeting of friends of the Central African Republic in New York, on 5 April 2012, the Government of Luxemburg provided €100,000 ($124,378) and the Government of Australia $200,000 for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. In July 2012, the summit of the Economic Community of Central African States pledged FCFA 5 billion ($9.87 million) for the implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration operations. Approximately €2.75 million ($3.5 million) was made available by the European Union to UNDP on 13 November for demobilization in the north-east. An additional €3 million ($3.9 million) was pledged by the European Union for reinsertion activities in the north-east.

VII. Security sector reform

27. Some progress was made during the period under review in the reform of the security institutions. However, after the adoption of a revised road map by the National Security Sector Reform Committee in February, the momentum was lost as a result of the limited capacity of the Permanent Technical Secretariat in the Ministry of Defence and the lack of engagement on the part of the Government. Out of the six subsectoral strategies identified in the road map, the Government, with the technical support of BINUCA, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the United Nations Secretariat, the United Nations Office to the African Union and the Government of France, finalized one: the subsectoral strategy on Central African armed forces and gendarmerie.

28. The strategy on democratic oversight of the security sector, completed by the Government in January 2011, with the support of BINUCA, has yet to be updated and still lacks an appropriate budget. The subsectoral strategy on police prepared by the Government, with the support of BINUCA, has yet to be finalized. Meanwhile, the subsectoral strategies for decentralization and environmental protection, justice, public finance and customs remain to be designed. Consequently, there has been no progress in the elaboration of a national security sector reform strategy.

29. BINUCA continued to provide technical assistance to the national authorities in the elaboration of a statute for the municipal police, including support for public outreach on the roles and responsibilities of the municipal police, provision of training on sexual and gender-based violence and community policing and operationalization of the computer centre of the National Police School, which BINUCA had furbished with computers.

VIII. Socioeconomic situation

30. In June, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved a new extended credit facility for the Central African Republic of $63.2 million. Meanwhile, the Government has committed to improving domestic revenue mobilization while

bolstering public financial management, governance, transparency and fiscal discipline. This will create space for the implementation of poverty reduction policies articulated in the second poverty reduction strategy paper covering the period 2011-2015. Given the country's very low domestic revenue-to-gross domestic product (GDP) ratio, success will depend strongly on donor funding. Furthermore, limited institutional capacity, a fragile sociopolitical situation, high oil prices and the economic crisis in Europe — Central African Republic's main aid, trade and investment partner — might limit prospects for recovery and equitable growth.

31. With improvements in agricultural production as well as wood and diamond exports, the country's economic growth rate is expected to reach 4.1 per cent in 2013. Short-term prospects seem positive but, as a fragile State, the Central African Republic is still facing significant challenges in terms of economic governance, infrastructure development and poverty reduction. Earlier this year, the Government enforced the IMF recommendation that it adjust the prices of petroleum products on a monthly basis so as to reflect the price increases on the international market in order to preserve its financial resources. Social tensions arose in reaction to the negative impact of the measure on the prices of basic commodities, including food prices. The inflation rate is expected to increase and to reach 6.8 per cent by the end of the year.

32. A recent survey on poverty levels showed that 62 per cent of households live below the poverty line (on less than $1.5 per day). Poverty affects mostly rural areas and the unemployment rate has reached 20.3 per cent.

33. There has been little progress towards the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. An estimated 30 per cent of families face food insecurity. The infant mortality rate is estimated at 116 per thousand and malnutrition is an underlying cause in more than 50 per cent of cases of deaths among children under 5 years of age. Malaria, which affects 22 per cent of the population, is one of the three leading causes of morbidity and mortality among children and women.

34. HIV prevalence is estimated at about 4.9 per cent among those in age group 15-49 (the figure is 7.9 per cent in urban areas and 2.9 per cent in rural areas). The prevalence profile in the Central African Republic is for groups with higher income and better education. The United Nations country team provided financial support and strengthened the capacity of the national committee in charge of the fight against HIV/AIDS to establish a national strategic framework (2012-2016) for the fight against HIV/AIDS.

IX. Humanitarian situation

35. The Central African Republic is facing one of the world's most silent and most forgotten humanitarian emergencies. The ongoing chronic crisis has had substantial repercussions, which are being addressed through a three-pronged integrated strategy which includes the saving of lives, early recovery and development-related measures. Owing to the country's extreme level of structural vulnerability, people's lives are constantly at risk from the slightest disturbances, whether linked to natural disasters, economic issues or conflict. Nevertheless, improved security has led to a decrease in the number of internally displaced persons and an increase in the number of returnees. Humanitarian assistance continued to be provided to 65,533 internally displaced persons, of which 26,800 had been displaced in 2012, and 49,939 returned

from within the Central African Republic or neighbouring countries. In addition, assistance is being provided to 17,623 refugees from the Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Meanwhile, occurrences of resource-based conflict linked to transhumance pastoralism in the north-central (Kabo-Batangafo-Kaga-Bandoro triangle) and western regions were on the rise. The seasonal movement of cattle breeders in search of pastures often results in conflict with local farmers for resources, leaving homes destroyed and populations displaced. It is estimated that 10,000 people were displaced as a result of this form of conflict.

36. An assessment by non-governmental organizations in the north-east revealed that over 45,000 people faced a major food crisis and needed immediate assistance. The global acute malnutrition rates have risen to 21 per cent, while severe acute malnutrition was at 7 per cent, which is three times above the emergency threshold. Humanitarian partners have provided immediate health and nutrition assistance, including vaccinations and therapeutic food products to malnourished children. Planting seeds and non-food items were distributed to the affected populations. Following the complete loss of livelihoods of the affected populations, the humanitarian community organized food airdrops in the towns of Gordil, Mélé, Ndiffa, Sikikédé Manou, Boromata and Tiringoulou, in the Vakaga prefecture, from 21 August to 17 September. The operation, funded by the rapid response window of the Central Emergency Fund, provided over 329 tons of food aid for over 11,319 people in need (2,148 households).

37. The 2012 Central African Republic consolidated appeal process overall requirements decreased from $134 million to $124 million. These requirements aimed to cater for 1.9 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, which is almost half of the country's population. As of 22 November 2012, the consolidated appeal process, having raised $76 million, was 61 per cent funded. Shortfalls in funding have seriously affected the ability of humanitarian organizations to provide the necessary assistance. Meanwhile, access to the humanitarian caseload has been severely constrained by insecurity and lack of infrastructure. Road access in the Central African Republic remains a constant challenge owing to poor and deteriorating road infrastructure, with the country having only 700 kilometres of paved roads. Accordingly, the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) is the only means of transportation for the humanitarian community. Furthermore, insecurity in the country is exacerbated by the proliferation of armed groups as well as rampant criminality and banditry. This is particularly prevalent in the eastern part of the country, where violent incidents have led to the looting and theft of equipment belonging to humanitarian organizations. These direct attacks on humanitarian actors have hindered the implementation of projects owing to movement restrictions and temporary suspension of activities. Persistent attacks by LRA in the south-east also continue to limit access, while also increasing fear among the local communities.

X. Operational activities in support of recovery and development

38. Since the start of the implementation of the second poverty reduction strategy paper (2011-2015) towards the end of 2011, UNDP, in collaboration with the World Bank and other partners, has provided continuous support to the Government in

revising its priority action plan and assisted in drafting an advocacy document in preparation of a possible donor's meeting. In addition, UNDP supported the accelerated pro-poor growth policy through the establishment of three public-private dialogue clusters in the agricultural, mining and forestry sectors. UNDP also participated in the formulation of the Millennium Development Goals Acceleration Framework for Food Security, permitting the Central African Republic to become the first post-conflict country, among all the African countries selected for the 2011-2012 roll-out, to finalize the process.

39. With the support of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Government formulated a national investment programme for agriculture and food security within the framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) of the African Union New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). This is a sector-wide plan for coordinating and harmonizing the resources needed to accelerate the implementation of existing and new initiatives designed to address national and sectoral development priorities. In the meantime, the United Nations country team continued to support the sectors of food production and horticulture for vulnerable groups. This assistance improved the livelihoods of 6,200 families through the cultivation of vegetables and staple foods, provided better access to markets, and enhanced the monitoring of food security through an enhanced integrated framework for the classification of food security in the country.

40. The United Nations country team further contributed to the early recovery efforts of the Central African Republic through the formulation of a capacity development strategy in the areas of poverty reduction, access to microfinancial services by vulnerable populations, the fight against HIV/AIDS, environmental protection and the fight against climate change. Regarding access to microfinancial services by vulnerable populations, the United Nations country team contributed to the training of staff in microfinance institutions on national financial regulations and protection of beneficiaries' requirements. Furthermore, UNDP and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) provided equipment to five national financing agencies, in Bangassou, Koui, Ndim, Ngaoundaye and Paoua.

41. In the field of environmental protection and the fight against climate change, the United Nations country team focused its interventions on sustainable management of natural resources and community involvement as a basis for the protection of endangered natural areas, the adaptation of agriculture and food security to climate change, and land conservation, as well as on rural electrification and the use of renewable energy.

XI. Human rights and rule of law

42. Reported cases of inhuman and degrading treatment, illegal arrests and incommunicado detentions, as well as enforced disappearances, remained a serious concern. In particular, the families of detainees have reported cases of failure by the judicial system to guarantee due process and to redress the abuses committed by the authorities. Cases of torture, particularly at the Bossembele military detention facility, have been brought to the attention of BINUCA. My Special Representative continued to raise human rights and rule of law issues with the Central African authorities.

43. BINUCA has received several reports of recurring abuses, including sexual violence, harassment and extortion, of the population in areas controlled or dominated by armed groups and other unidentified armed elements operating in the country.

44. From 5 to 12 September, my Special Representative on sexual violence in conflict, Zainab Hawa Bangura, undertook a fact-finding mission to the Central African Republic, where she met with victims of sexual violence, representatives of civil society, Government officials, non-governmental organizations, women's groups, politico-military groups, and representatives of the diplomatic corps. During the visit, the United Nations signed two communiqués with the Government: the first with the Minister for Social Affairs, National Solidarity and Gender Promotion in order to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and the Government; and the second with the Ministry of Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration on priorities in the field of prevention of sexual and other forms of gender-based violence.

45. The administration of the penitentiary witnessed two major setbacks as a result of the pillaging of the N'Garagba prison, on 2 August, and the looting of the prison of Sibut, on 15 September. The incidents resulted in the escape of detainees, who remained at large partly owing to the absence of prison registries. In order to assist the Government in the management of detainees, BINUCA has produced 2,500 forms for the identification and registration of detainees.

46. Discussions on critical reforms regarding the administration of justice, namely, the implementation of decrees on the organization of the courts, and the status of magistrates, as well as the draft law on access to justice, have been initiated by the new Minister of Justice and Moralization. BINUCA continued to support the Ministry of Justice and Moralization in strengthening the capacity of the judiciary through the provision of technical advice during the preparation of the Ministry's annual workplan and other processes such as legal aid and access to justice. BINUCA also continued to work closely with international stakeholders, such as the European Union, on justice sector reform and the establishment and launch of its €10 million project for the rehabilitation of the justice and police sectors.

47. During the reporting period, the Government set up a committee to eliminate the death penalty from the Penal Code. The Government received support from international partners, including UNDP, to develop a strategy to strengthen the rule of law and to improve the population's awareness of human rights through the dissemination of fundamental legislative and regulatory texts, such as the Labour Code, the Court of Appeals casebook, the paralegal practice guide and the Family Code.

48. Furthermore, UNDP funded the construction or rehabilitation of buildings housing several justice and security institutions: a High Court building was constructed in Paoua, Ouham-Pendé prefecture, and the courtroom of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals in Bangui and the magistrates' court in Bimbo, Ombella-Mpoko prefecture were rehabilitated. In order to improve the functioning and coordination of security services in remote areas of the country, UNDP constructed police stations in Bozoum, Ouham-Pendé prefecture, and Bossangoa, Ouham prefecture. In addition, UNDP donated materials and equipment to the courts, prisons and police stations.

XII. Child protection

49. UNICEF and BINUCA continued to collaborate on the issue of child protection in the country. The process of releasing and reintegrating children associated with armed forces and groups continued as planned, despite significant logistic and security constraints. Since the beginning of 2012, a total of 157 children have been referred to transit and orientation centres and/or foster families for temporary care. Among these, the Ministry of Social Affairs, National Solidarity and Gender Promotion, verified the demobilization of 32 children, while 125 children were released by armed groups, following the intervention of the United Nations monitoring and reporting task force.

50. BINUCA provided logistic support to UNICEF in the organization of a training programme on temporary care, and social and community reintegration of children associated with armed forces and groups, on 9 and 10 June. Participants included representatives from the Ministry of Social Affairs, National Solidarity and Gender Promotion and other partners. Meanwhile implementing partners have engaged in sensitization campaigns to prevent re-recruitment of children and to facilitate their reintegration in communities of origin.

51. A total of 55 judges, 65 police officers, 35 social workers and 30 prison guards from the juvenile judiciary system received training on procedures for preliminary investigations and court rulings. Coordination, data collection and reporting have been reinforced through the Juvenile Protection Department of the Ministry of Justice and Moralization, which ensures liaison with child tribunals in the country.

52. In addition to the three juvenile tribunals, two other courts are now ensuring the holding of hearings for cases concerning children, despite their limited resources. One hundred ninety-eight girls and boys in conflict with the law have benefited from measures alternative to detention in the rehabilitation centres supported by UNICEF, while 24 children remained in detention.

53. With the technical support of UNICEF, the gender-based violence sub-cluster is now fully functional and is holding regular meetings.

XIII. Gender

54. During the reporting period, BINUCA increased its efforts to support the participation of women in governance, conflict resolution and consolidation of peace. BINUCA has strengthened its collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs, National Solidarity and Gender Promotion and UNFPA to promote women's involvement in the development of an action plan in support of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). Further to the engagement of the Government to serve as one of the pilot countries for advancing the commitment of the seven-point action plan for women's participation in peacebuilding, a results framework was developed in July by the United Nations Gender Thematic Group, with the technical support of the Peacebuilding Support Office. The purpose is to implement the two commitments that it has prioritized, namely, conflict resolution and post-conflict governance.

55. BINUCA provided women with training on the role of women in peace processes prior to the negotiations in August 2012 between the Government and

CPJP, which led to the accession of this political-military group to the 2008 Libreville Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Women were well represented in the CPJP delegation and actively participated in the negotiations. On 21 September, a consultation was held among women from various networks, institutions and civil society organizations to review the draft electoral code. They also developed a strategy to ensure that their views would be considered during the fourth workshop on the electoral code.

56. The commemoration of the Global Open Day on Women, Peace and Security, on 23 July, was highlighted by a round-table discussion between women parliamentarians and internally displaced women in Argoumar, Mbomou prefecture, an area affected by the presence of LRA. Participants made recommendations focusing on insecurity and humanitarian concerns; and BINUCA is mobilizing resources to address the humanitarian and security needs of the communities.

XIV. Peacebuilding Fund

57. From 24 June to 6 July, a mandatory and independent evaluation commissioned by the Peacebuilding Support Office in consultation with the Peacebuilding Fund Joint Steering Committee was organized to evaluate the 26 Peacebuilding Fund projects, totalling $30 million. The report concluded that there had been significant peacebuilding advances during the implementation phases of the projects between 2008 and 2012, including the holding of presidential and legislative elections in 2011. In addition, the report stressed that the projects had helped in accelerating the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process of armed groups and in the reaching of a consensus with armed groups on the demobilization and reintegration of child soldiers. However, the evaluation also noted that the overall coherence of the strategy could have been greater, and that national and local actors could have been more involved at the earliest stages of project selection so as to improve ownership and foster capacity-building.

XV. Activities of the Peacebuilding Commission

58. The Chair of the Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, Jan Grauls, announced that he was relinquishing his mandate effective 1 June 2012. Consultations are ongoing between the Central African authorities and the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, Abdul Momen, with respect to designating a new Chair of the configuration.

XVI. Integration and a common United Nations vision for the Central African Republic

59. BINUCA and the United Nations country team have made significant progress in the implementation of the five-year peace consolidation and development assistance framework, which started in January 2012. To this end, the programme implementation arrangements to ensure the delivery of the agreed results have been formalized. These include revitalized integrated joint action plans; the strengthening of the monitoring and evaluation group to support the programme management team

in assessing progress towards achieving the agreed results; and strengthened framework thematic groups, which are focusing on cross-cutting issues such as gender, HIV/AIDS, youth and communication.

60. Some achievements have been registered, including support provided to the Government for the preparation of its national report on sustainable development presented at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 20-22 June 2012); a revitalized joint HIV/AIDS programme agreed between the Government and the United Nations, which has been finalized and is being implemented; and the preparation of a joint sectoral strategy on gender and poverty reduction. The United Nations is supporting the implementation of the New Deal in the Central African Republic, which is one of the pilot countries for the period 2012-2015.

61. In order to strengthen integration and coordination mechanisms in the country, the Policy Coordination Group developed modalities for further operationalizing integration mechanisms in the Central African Republic. My Special Representative is making every effort to develop synergies with other United Nations entities on such strategies as operating from common premises in the field and pooling resources wherever possible, which will yield the cost savings required to fill resource gaps and increase efficiency in the delivery of mandates.

XVII. Observations and recommendations

62. The consensus that emerged on the revised electoral code is an important political breakthrough. The exercise was important in building confidence among the political stakeholders and in securing agreement on an election management body. I encourage the National Assembly to adopt the revised electoral code as accepted by all stakeholders. The United Nations will support the Government in implementing the approved electoral reforms.

63. The security situation in the Central African Republic remains precarious. I call on all parties to put an immediate end to hostilities and re-engage in dialogue towards the launch of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, and ensure the effective implementation of the 2008 Libreville Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

64. I call on the Government to continue to work closely with the United Nations and international partners in addressing the remaining security challenges and in fostering social cohesion. At the same time, the Government should take concrete steps to improve the rule of law and respect for human rights, particularly within the security and defence forces.

65. The further erosion of security throughout the country could impact negatively on humanitarian access to vulnerable segments of the population. The expansion of humanitarian assistance and operations in the Vakaga and Bamingui-Bangoran prefectures, which have witnessed an influx of returning internally displaced persons to their villages, is imperative. I take note of the efforts by the Government to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations in the affected regions of the country. I am deeply concerned, however, about the persistent vulnerability of civilians, especially women and children, in the areas in which illegal armed groups continue to operate.

66. The persistent lack of essential social services continues to undermine the efforts of communities to become resilient to shocks and conflicts. It is important for the Government, supported by its partners, to invest in the provision of basic social services and in infrastructure development. The incidents of 2 August in Bangui demonstrate the significance of social issues and the need to address some of the root causes of social discontent. I call upon the Government to step up its efforts to improve the basic living conditions of the population.

67. I am encouraged by the Government's continued commitment to implementing the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme. I call on the authorities to demonstrate the same level of engagement on security sector reform. The adoption of a consensual and realistic national security sector reform strategy is critical to enabling international support in this endeavour. The strategy should include clear and consistent modalities for the integration of ex-combatants into the defence and security forces. The Government must make the adoption of such a strategy a priority. The United Nations stands ready to support the Government in this strategic exercise.

68. I commend the international community for its financial support to the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process. The successful completion of the reintegration component of the process will be instrumental in ensuring that the progress towards peace consolidation is irreversible.

69. The Government's commitment to the fight against LRA, in particular its participation in the African Union-led Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of LRA, is noteworthy. The persistent threat to the civilian population posed by the foreign armed group is a cause for serious concern. I urge international partners to continue to support the Central African authorities so as to enable them to implement a comprehensive national response, which not only encourages defections within the LRA ranks but also contributes to the socioeconomic development of LRA-affected areas.

70. Through the revival by the Governments of the Central African Republic and Chad of their joint commission, they have access to a useful platform for cooperation between States and achieving enhanced security along their common borders. I encourage the Government of the Central African Republic to revive similar instruments with other countries of the region.

71. I welcome the adoption of the national strategy to fight corruption and urge the national authorities to implement it effectively. I encourage international partners to assist the Government accordingly.

72. I should like to express my appreciation to regional and international organizations, including the Economic Community of Central African States, the Central African Economic and Monetary Community, the African Union, the European Union, the International Organization of la Francophonie, the African Development Bank, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund for their continued engagement, and to bilateral partners for their invaluable support to the Central African Republic. It is important that they show flexibility and provide the Government of the Central African Republic with the required technical and financial assistance, which is indispensable for the stability of the country.

73. The mandate of BINUCA will expire on 31 January 2013. In view of the important role that the Office is called upon to play in the peace consolidation and

reconciliation process and of the need for continued United Nations integrated support for the Central African Republic in tackling peacebuilding challenges, and following consultations with the Government of the Central African Republic, I would like to recommend that the mandate of BINUCA, as welcomed by the Security Council in its presidential statement (S/PRST/2009/5) and renewed by the Council in its resolution 2031 (2011), be extended for another year, until 31 January 2014. In the coming year, BINUCA will continue to implement its mandate in close cooperation with national authorities and partners of the Central African Republic, with a particular focus on reconciliation, political dialogue, completion of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, restoration of State authority throughout the national territory, security sector reform, promotion of the rule of law and human rights, gender equality and countering the LRA threat.

74. Finally, I should like to commend the staff of BINUCA for their commitment and hard work in a difficult environment under the leadership of my Special Representative, Margaret Aderinsola Vogt, and the United Nations country team for its dedicated and diligent efforts in support of peacebuilding in the Central African Republic.

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Security Council

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Letter dated 20 December 2012 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

India held the presidency of the Security Council for the month of November 2012. An assessment of the work of the Council, prepared under my supervision in consultation with the other members of the Council, is enclosed (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) H. S. **Puri**

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Annex to the letter dated 20 December 2012 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of India (November 2012)

Introduction

1. During November 2012, under the presidency of the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, Ambassador H. S. Puri, the Security Council held 21 informal consultations of the whole and 24 official meetings, one of which was held in private.

2. During the month, the Council adopted six resolutions (two each on Somalia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and one each on the Sudan/South Sudan (Abyei) and Bosnia-Herzegovina) and two presidential statements (on piracy and Sierra Leone), and issued two press statements (on the Middle East and the Democratic Republic of the Congo).

3. The Council also adopted the annual report of the Security Council to the General Assembly (A/67/2 (Supp.)) on 8 November, which the President of the Council submitted to the General Assembly on 15 November.

Africa

South Sudan

4. On 28 November, the Security Council was briefed by Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hervé Ladsous, on the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). He said that while the South Sudan Government had made progress, including moving forward in establishing the national Demobilization, Disarmament and Reintegration Council and announcing the development of a national human rights agenda, the failure to resolve security, economic and political problems continued to have a direct impact on the country's fragile stability and security. While tensions between South Sudan and the Sudan had decreased, if the agreements signed on 27 September were not rapidly implemented, economic development in South Sudan would be hit hard, particularly the oil sector. The current economic fragility had also been hampered by inter-communal conflicts and militia clashes and threats against the South Sudanese army (Sudan People's Liberation Army) and UNMISS, as well as a growing concern over politically motivated threats and abductions targeting journalists, civil society activists and political opponents. The Under-Secretary-General added that scant progress had been achieved on a range of issues, including talks between the countries and the processes of establishing national institutions alongside reconciliation and civilian disarmament initiatives in Jonglei State. He noted that resource constraints have been impediments to capacity development in the police service, which is a critical objective requiring sustained attention and investment. He also expressed concern at the expulsion of an UNMISS senior human rights officer on 23 October. Calling the act a violation of the status-of-forces agreement,

he called on the Government of South Sudan to rescind the order, and suggested that the Security Council call for the same.

5. The representative of South Sudan, Francis Mading Deng, reported his Government's actions to promote stability and inter-communal harmony in Jonglei State. He said that while his country took the concern of the Under-Secretary-General seriously and affirmed its unwavering commitment to international human rights and humanitarian standards, it believed that it had acted consistently with the status-of-forces agreement when expelling the UNMISS officer concerned. He also thanked the Council and UNMISS for their attention to outstanding issues. He reiterated the commitment of his country to peaceful coexistence with the Sudan, and asked the Security Council to support unreservedly the decision of the African Union Peace and Security Council concerning the Sudan and South Sudan. He commented that border security between the two countries is connected to stability in the Two Areas (Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States), and, quoting the report of the Secretary-General, made note of the impact on South Sudan of the humanitarian crisis in the Two Areas. He affirmed the importance of Abyei to sustainable peace in the region, welcoming some positive developments in discussions with the Sudan.

6. In informal consultations following the briefing, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for South Sudan and Head of UNMISS, Hilde Johnson, said that the Mission faced severe resource constraints, particularly with regard to aviation capability. Council members commended UNMISS peacekeepers and leadership for their work despite resource constraints. They criticized the Government of South Sudan for expelling the UNMISS human rights officer.

Sudan and South Sudan

7. On 14 November, the Security Council was briefed by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan, Haile Menkerios, on the implementation of resolution 2046 (2012). He informed the Council that the African Union Peace and Security Council had given a period of six weeks for the Sudan and South Sudan to reach agreement on the final status of the Abyei area and also decided that in the event the parties fail to do so, the African Union Peace and Security Council would endorse the proposal of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel on the status of Abyei of 21 September 2012 as final and binding, and would seek its endorsement by the United Nations Security Council. The African Union Peace and Security Council also encouraged the parties to ensure the implementation of the agreements signed under the auspices of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel on 27 September in Addis Ababa. The Special Envoy expressed concern at the ongoing hostilities in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States and the failure of the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM)-North to hold direct bilateral talks on cessation of hostilities and political settlement of the conflict thus enabling the implementation of the proposal of the tripartite mechanism for delivery of humanitarian assistance to the Two Areas.

8. While welcoming the ratification of the nine agreements signed on 27 September 2012, Council members regretted that the Government of the Sudan and SPLM-North had failed to start direct talks or to address the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Two Areas. With respect to the final status of Abyei,

some Council members expressed the opinion that the proposal of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel of 21 September 2012, which was developed at the request of the Presidents of the Sudan and South Sudan and was based on the mutual commitments of the two parties contained in the Abyei Protocol to the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the 20 June 2011 agreement between the two parties, and which protected the rights of and promoted economic development for both the Dinka and Misseriya communities, was the best way forward. Others stated their belief that the final status of Abyei and disputed and claimed border areas are territorial disputes between the Sudan and South Sudan and should be resolved only through negotiated and mutually acceptable solutions between the parties. Given the sensitive and complicated nature of the issues, the international community should adopt an objective, impartial and balanced approach. All members hoped that the parties would utilize the six-week period to mutually agree on the pending issues.

9. On 16 November, the Council adopted resolution 2075 (2012) to extend the mandate of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) until 31 May 2013.

10. On 28 November, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan briefed the Council in informal consultations on the status of the implementation of resolution 2046 (2012). He said that there had been no significant progress towards the implementation of the nine agreements signed between the Sudan and South Sudan on 27 September. The parties had not held any talks so far on the final status of Abyei during the six-week period. Meanwhile, hostilities had continued between the Sudanese Armed Forces and SPLM-North in the Two Areas and the humanitarian situation had been deteriorating.

11. Council members reiterated their support for the African Union High-level Implementation Panel and hoped that the parties would utilize the six-week period to agree on mutually acceptable solutions to the outstanding issues, while taking steps towards the implementation of the agreements signed on 27 September, particularly those concerning the security issues and the resumption of oil production and exports.

Libya

12. On 7 November, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Fatou Bensouda, submitted her fourth report on the implementation of the resolution 1970 (2011). She stated that Libya faced a multitude of security challenges, and that as the country continued on its path towards stability, it would need strong support from the international community to ensure that perpetrators of crimes committed during the 2011 conflict that led to Gaddafi's downfall were brought to justice. Outlining the cases against Gaddafi's son, Saif al-Islam Gaddafi, and Abdullah al-Senussi, a senior Libyan intelligence official, she said that both Mr. Gaddafi and Mr. Al-Senussi had already been detained, and the Libyan authorities had challenged the admissibility of the case against the former and possibly of the latter. The Pre-trial Chamber was in the process of deciding on the merits of the challenge as to whether the case should be heard at the Hague-based facilities of the Court or in Libya. She encouraged the Libyan Government to ensure that there was no amnesty for international crimes and no impunity for crimes. She also called on the Government to redouble its commitment to working with the Court, as well as its active engagement with the judicial process.

13. Council members called for supporting Libya at this critical juncture. Several Council members also raised concerns on the detention of four Court officials by militia forces in June. Concern was expressed that the authorities were unable to bring armed groups under control. Many Council members stressed the need to carry out trials according to international standards and to ensure that justice was done in a comprehensive manner.

14. The Libyan representative informed that his Government had put in place a global strategy for the promotion of national reconciliation and the end of impunity. However, he acknowledged, the strategy faced numerous challenges, including the delay of the formation of the new Government. He reiterated his country's pledge to carry out all procedures in compliance with international law and sought support from other countries where the accused were hiding to take the investigations forward to their logical conclusion.

15. On 8 November, the Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Libya and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), Tarek Mitri, and the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011), Ambassador José Filipe Moraes Cabral of Portugal. The Special Representative said that the formation of the new Government in Libya on 31 October was a milestone in the democratic development of Libya. He gave details of the activities of UNSMIL to support the Libyan authorities, including in the areas of security sector reforms, sharing of best practices, training and national reconciliation. With respect to the situation in Bani Walid, the Special Representative said that the displaced were returning, and the Libyan General National Congress had set up a fact-finding committee to look into human rights violations. He added that the security situation in Libya remained precarious, with bouts of fighting between armed groups and assassination attempts on security officials and religious leaders. There had been widespread denunciation of the attacks on the United States Consulate in Benghazi that had resulted in the deaths of Ambassador Christopher Stevens and three other United States diplomatic personnel. Little progress had been made in transferring detention facilities from armed brigades to the Ministry of Justice.

16. The Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011) concerning Libya announced that the Panel of Experts had been investigating the reported cases of violations of arms embargo. The Committee would further consider the recommendations of the Panel.

17. Council members welcomed the elections to the General National Congress and the formation of a new Government. Members unanimously called on the Libyan authorities to address the need to demobilize and reintegrate armed brigades and the threat posed by terrorist and extremist groups. They advised UNSMIL to play the role of a constructive partner and proactive guide. They called for UNSMIL to effectively coordinate international assistance. Some members expressed concern at the proliferation of arms to Libya's neighbours and beyond, and called for strict enforcement of arms embargo and decisive steps to deal with the problem. Members also advised the 1970 Committee to take violations of the arms embargo seriously and take appropriate action on the recommendations of the Panel of Experts.

18. In his concluding remarks, the Special Representative said that there was an intrinsic link between the constitution-making process and national dialogue and

reconciliation. Libya had to define a new social contract, which should go hand in hand with the healing of decades-old wounds.

Somalia

19. On 7 November, the Council adopted resolution 2073 (2012) to extend the mandate of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) for four months.

20. On 8 November, the President of the Security Council, in his capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolutions 751 (1992) and 1907 (2009) concerning Somalia and Eritrea, submitted the 120-day report of the Committee to the Security Council. The members welcomed the end of the transition period in Somalia and called for the consideration of appropriate adjustments in the sanctions regime, in consultation with the new Somali authorities. Members also called on Eritrea to cooperate with the Monitoring Group.

21. On 21 November, the Council adopted resolution 2077 (2012) to extend the authorization for counter-piracy operations off the coast of Somalia.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

22. On 20 November, the Council adopted resolution 2076 (2012) which, inter alia, condemned the resumption of attacks by the Mouvement du 23 mars (M23), demanded its immediate withdrawal and the restoration of State authority in Goma and North Kivu, requested the Secretary-General to report on the allegations of external support to M23 and also on options and their implications for the possible redeployment, in consultation with troop- and police-contributing countries, with regard to the contingents of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and additional force multipliers, observation capabilities and troops within the current authorized ceiling, which, in regard to the current crisis, could improve the ability of MONUSCO to implement its mandate, including to protect civilians and report on flows of arms and related materiel across the borders of eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

23. On 21 November, the Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of MONUSCO, Roger Meece, on the situation in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He said that most worrisome was the M23 rebellion, its new offensive operations, its occupation of Goma and North Kivu and, most of all, its appearance as a strong, disciplined, established military force with sophisticated weapons and tactics. In consultations of the whole following the briefing, it was mentioned that M23 was equipped with heavy weapons and sophisticated equipment, including night-vision equipment. Neither MONUSCO nor the Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo had access to night-vision equipment.

24. In consultations of the whole, the Council was also briefed by the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ambassador Agshin Mehdiyev. The briefing covered, inter alia, the final report of the Group of Experts and its recommendations.

25. Council members demanded that all external support to M23 must cease immediately, and that M23 must withdraw from Goma and other areas. They also

supported the mediation efforts of the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region and called for the full involvement of the United Nations in the process. While supporting the actions of MONUSCO to fully implement its mandate, some members advised that any change in its mandate should be made in consultations with the troop-contributing countries and matched by the provision of adequate resources.

26. On 27 November, the Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and the Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General, Susana Malcorra. The latter informed the Council members about her visit to the region and meetings with the Presidents of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda. During the visit, she also went to Goma and met, at the request of President Kabila, with M23 leader Sultani Makenga. She said that President Kabila was in a terrified state following the successes scored by M23 against the Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo. Due to the threat of M23 continuing its offensive, President Kabila agreed to several measures in meetings with his Rwandan and Ugandan counterparts on 24 November, in order to defuse the crisis. The implementation of those measures would need to be discussed further.

27. Council members expressed serious concern about the developments, and said that political negotiations were required in order to stabilize the situation. Some members said that it had to be kept in mind that the M23 leaders were war criminals and their military victory could not be legitimized. All members supported the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and called for short-, medium- and long-term responses to the chronic instability and insecurity in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. Some members supported the proposal that the Secretary-General designate a Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region to allow high-level and continuous United Nations engagement with the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Uganda and other States of the region.

28. On 28 November, the Council adopted resolution 2078 (2012) to extend the arms embargo against armed groups, the targeted measures against listed individuals and entities, and the mandate for the Group of Experts until 1 February 2014.

Western Sahara

29. On 28 November, the Security Council was briefed by the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara, Christopher Ross, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara and Head of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), Wolfgang Weisbrod-Weber. The Personal Envoy said that during his recent visit to the region, all interlocutors confirmed their commitment to working with the United Nations to pursue a political solution for the final status of Western Sahara, while at the same time reiterating their attachment to their own proposals. Under the circumstances, after four rounds of official negotiations and nine rounds of informal talks, it was futile to convene more meetings of the parties any time soon in the absence of a change in the equation. He asked Council members and the wider international community to encourage the parties to enter into serious negotiations to bring the conflict to an end since it would be a serious miscalculation to leave it to fester.

30. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General said that the situation in Western Sahara during the reporting period had remained stable, and the ability of MINURSO to report on the situation, though limited, had improved. Neither party

had so far denied access to MINURSO, even though they had different interpretations of the mandate of the Mission.

31. The Council members expressed appreciation for the efforts of Morocco to improve the living conditions of Saharawi people and expressed unqualified support for MINURSO and the Personal Envoy. One member called for human rights reporting by MINURSO, while others felt no need for such a mandate and praised the work being done by Morocco's national human rights institutions in Western Sahara. Some members said that Morocco's autonomy plan could form the serious and credible basis for resolving the Western Sahara issue, and others supported a mutually acceptable political solution.

Sierra Leone

32. On 28 November, the Security Council was briefed by the Executive Representative of the Secretary-General in Sierra Leone and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL), Jens Toyberg-Frandzen, on the 17 November elections in Sierra Leone. He said that the elections were held in a festive atmosphere with large participation by women and youth. International observers had concluded that the elections were peaceful, credible and transparent. Even though there were complaints by the opposition Sierra Leone People's Party, the situation across the country was calm except in some areas of opposition stronghold. UNIPSIL was working closely with all stakeholders to facilitate dialogue to resolve their differences. He added that the United Nations technical assessment mission would visit Sierra Leone shortly to review the situation and make recommendations with respect to the transition, drawdown and exit strategy of the Mission.

33. In the ensuing discussion, Council members welcomed the peaceful conduct of elections, which had ushered Sierra Leone into a new phase of peace consolidation.

34. On 30 November, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2012/25) that, inter alia, commended Sierra Leone for the conduct and successful conclusion of presidential, parliamentary, district and local elections. It called upon all political parties and candidates to accept the results and to work with the Government in a constructive manner through national dialogue and reconciliation, and urged all parties to resolve any grievances peacefully through the appropriate legal means in accordance with the national laws of Sierra Leone. The Council recalled its request in resolution 2065 (2012) for the Secretary-General to deploy an inter-agency technical assessment mission to Sierra Leone, and in particular for the mission to consider detailed proposals and a recommended timeline for the transition, drawdown and exit strategy for UNIPSIL by no later than 15 February 2013.

Middle East

Middle East, including the Palestinian question

35. Between 14 and 21 November, the Security Council held a number of meetings, including one private meeting on 14 November and a briefing by the Secretary-General on 21 November, in order to discuss the crisis in the Gaza Strip and Israel. All Council members supported the cessation of hostilities. Some

members said that Israel was exercising its right to self-defence in the face of rocket attacks from Gaza. Others criticized the disproportionate use of force by Israel. The Council's consideration of the crisis ended with a press statement on 21 November, in which the members of the Council welcomed the ceasefire agreement in order to bring about a sustainable and durable cessation of hostilities that had been affecting the Gaza Strip and Israel. They called on the parties to uphold the agreement and to act seriously to implement its provisions in good faith. While reaffirming the need for the people of Israel and the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip to live without fear, the members called on the international community to contribute to improving the living conditions of the people in the Gaza Strip, notably through providing additional emergency aid through appropriate established channels. They also stressed the urgency of the restoration of calm in full and reiterated the importance of achieving a comprehensive peace based on the vision of a region where two democratic States, Israel and Palestine, live side by side in peace within secure and recognized borders.

36. On 27 November, the Council held the monthly briefing on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. The Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Robert Serry, said that the recent developments — the recent disturbing cycle of violence in Gaza and Israel and a dangerous escalation that had concluded with the Egyptian-brokered ceasefire agreement on 21 November, and the Palestinians' intention to approach the General Assembly to seek the status of non-member observer State — underscore that the status quo is unsustainable and that it is all the more vital to identify a way ahead to urgently put the peace process back on track. The Special Coordinator reiterated his warning about the risks of prolonged stalemate in the peace process for the two-State solution and the viability of the Palestinian Authority. Unfortunately, the effort to revive the peace process continued to be undermined by actions on the ground, including continued settlement activity, settler violence and clashes between Palestinians and Israeli security forces.

37. With respect to the Syrian Arab Republic, the Special Coordinator noted that as a consequence of the 21-month internal conflict, the situation in the area of operations of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) remained volatile, and armed clashes between the Syrian Arab Armed Forces and armed members of the opposition took place daily inside the area of separation. He added that the situation in Lebanon also remained vulnerable to the ongoing conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic.

38. Underscoring their support for the two-State solution, Council members talked of their efforts for the resumption of direct talks. They also emphasized that all concerned should fully respect the political independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Lebanon. Divergent views were expressed on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Syrian Arab Republic

39. On 6 November, the Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Jeffrey Feltman, on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic in the aftermath of the appeal of the Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States for Syria, Lakhdar Brahimi, for a truce during the Eid al-Adha holidays, from 26 to 29 October. The Under-Secretary-General said that the

appeal was aimed at giving breathing space to the parties and was based on the principle that the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, as the stronger party, should take the initiative and that other parties should reciprocate. The truce was short-lived, and since it was based on the principle of a unilateral cessation of fire, not a negotiated ceasefire with mutual obligations and commitments, the question of who violated the truce first was not the key question. The main issue was that, in spite of the interest expressed on both sides in silencing guns, and the fatigue of fighting such interest might have demonstrated, the parties remained locked in their fear, mistrust and military logic. As at 30 October, the level of violence was the same as it had been before the Eid al-Adha holiday period. Gross violations of international human rights and humanitarian law continued by both parties and the humanitarian situation continued to deteriorate.

40. The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs added that the UNDOF-supervised area of separation between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Israeli-occupied Golan had also become part of the battleground. The fighting had curtailed UNDOF operations and potentially risked a dangerous breach of the ceasefire established by the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement between the Syrian Arab Republic and Israel.

41. He said that the tragic situation in the Syrian Arab Republic would not be resolved militarily. The logic of war must be abandoned for the search of a just, democratic and sustainable political solution. The Joint Special Representative was continuing his intensive consultations to that end. The Security Council had eminent responsibilities and an essential role to play in making the parties change their course through strong and unambiguous support for the efforts of the Joint Special Representative.

42. In their statements, all Council members expressed support for the efforts of the Joint Special Representative. Some members said that the violence perpetrated by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic was to blame for the current situation and it was difficult to see how the conflict could be resolved with President Bashar al-Assad in power. They called on the Council to adopt a binding resolution with consequences for non-compliance so that the call for political transition in the Geneva communiqué of 30 June would be implemented. On the other hand, some members said that the policy of regime change had to be abandoned and all Syrian parties pressured to engage in a Syrian-led political process for the resolution of the crisis. Some members regretted that the Council had not been able to adopt statements condemning terrorist acts in the Syrian Arab Republic. Others said that it would not be right to condemn acts attributable to the opposition groups while the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic was engaged in killing civilians through the use of heavy weapons and aerial assets.

43. On 29 November, the Joint Special Representative briefed the Council in informal consultations on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic. His briefing covered three issues: the humanitarian situation, political and military developments, and the way forward. He said that there were 2 million internally displaced persons and 4 million in desperate need of help. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic now recognized the problem and its cooperation with the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross had improved. On the military front, the opposition had achieved its objective of relieving the pressure on their fighters in the north and the west of the country. They had now grown bolder and

had started attacking the capital, Damascus. The Government, on its part, remained confident that the security forces would have the upper hand. Turkey, Lebanon and the Occupied Golan Heights had been affected by the Syrian crisis, and threats to regional peace and stability were, therefore, neither abstract nor something in the distant future.

44. The Joint Special Representative added that at the political level, a major achievement had been the creation of the National Coalition of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces, which had reaffirmed the almost unanimous demand of many opposition groups that President Assad and his close associates leave power before any political settlement could be contemplated. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, on the other hand, continued to see itself as the legitimate authority and claimed that it was facing mostly armed terrorist groups funded by a vast regional and international anti-Syria conspiracy.

45. Under these circumstances, the Joint Special Representative said, the Syrian Arab Republic needed a political process that would lead to the creation of a new Syria, with a new political dispensation. Otherwise, it would become a new and more terrible Somalia. The building blocks for a political process to end the Syrian crisis already existed in the final communiqué of the Action Group for Syria, issued in Geneva on 30 June. This should include a transitional governing body with full executive powers at the beginning of the political process and an election at the end of it. For the final communiqué to be effective, he added, its substantive parts needed to be translated into a Security Council resolution. The process must include a binding agreement on the cessation of all forms of violence. Since there was no trust between the Syrian parties, a well-planned observation system must be put in place for the fighting to stop. This could be organized through a large, robust peacekeeping force established through a Security Council resolution.

46. In the ensuing discussion, some Council members reiterated their views that President Assad could not be part of the solution, that the Council must adopt a Chapter VII resolution with consequences for non-compliance, and that they would continue to work with the newly created National Coalition to expand its presence on the ground. Other Members opposed a Chapter VII resolution and criticized the National Coalition for rejecting political dialogue until President Assad left power.

Lebanon

47. On 9 November, the Council was briefed by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004), Terje Roed Larsen. He said that diligent and patient work with the relevant parties had led to the implementation of several of the provisions of resolution 1559 (2004), such as presidential and parliamentary elections; the withdrawal of Syrian troops and military assets from Lebanon; and the establishment of full diplomatic relations between the Syrian Arab Republic and Lebanon. He noted that the main remaining provisions of the resolution to be implemented, which seriously challenged the stability and political independence of Lebanon, were the disarming and disbanding of all Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias. The Special Envoy added that over the reporting period, there had been yet again no tangible progress in the disbanding and disarming of Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias in Lebanon.

48. Council members expressed concern at the lack of full implementation of resolution 1559 (2004), and also at the threat to peace and stability in Lebanon

owing to the ongoing crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic. They called for increased vigilance with respect to the smuggling of weapons across the Lebanon-Syria borders. They also called upon all concerned countries to respect the political independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Lebanon. In this connection, some members called on Israel to withdraw from northern Ghajar and to stop its routine violations of Lebanese airspace.

49. On 29 November, the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Derek Plumbly, briefed the Council in informal consultations on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) and the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Edmond Mulet, provided an update on operational and security issues concerning the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). The Special Coordinator said that fragile calm continued to prevail across the Blue Line. But Lebanon continued to face repeated challenges to its stability and security owing to the Syrian crisis. Recent political assassinations were a chilling reminder of the vulnerability of the country. The Special Coordinator stressed that the recent assassination of General Wissam al-Hassan must be fully and thoroughly investigated and those responsible brought to justice. President Sleiman was engaged in consultations on how to break the political deadlock in the aftermath of the assassination. The national dialogue scheduled for 29 November had been postponed to January 2013.

50. The Special Coordinator added that Israel continued to occupy the northern part of the village of Ghajar, and continued to carry out almost daily violations of Lebanese airspace. There had been continuing violations from the Syrian side as well. UNIFIL continued to work closely with the Lebanese Armed Forces through the strategic dialogue, with a view to increasing the capacity of the Lebanese Armed Forces. The Special Coordinator added that the Lebanese Cabinet had approved a five-year plan of $1.6 billion to strengthen the Lebanese Armed Forces.

51. The Assistant Secretary-General said that the cessation of hostilities across the Blue Line continued to hold and the situation in the UNIFIL area of operations had remained generally quiet but volatile. The tripartite mechanism and other liaison arrangements continued to serve as important confidence-building measures and to contribute to the prevention of hostility. The Assistant Secretary-General noted that the Lebanese Armed Forces defused two rockets aimed at Israel on 19 November, and UNIFIL had also determined that on 28 November two rockets fired from north of the Litani river towards Israel had landed short, in the UNIFIL area of operations.

52. In the ensuing discussion, the Council members expressed concern at the impact of the Syrian crisis on Lebanon and supported the Baabda Declaration of President Sleiman brokered through the national dialogue. Some Council members also called upon Israel to cease its routine violations of the airspace of Lebanon and to withdraw from the northern part of Ghajar. Some members also criticized the interference of the Syrian Arab Republic in the internal affairs of Lebanon and cross-border attacks into Lebanon. Others called for efforts to stop the smuggling of weapons and fighters from Lebanon into the Syrian Arab Republic.

Iraq

53. On 29 November, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), Martin Kobler, briefed the Security Council on the situation in Iraq. He said that UNAMI

remained an important factor in helping the country stay the course and complete its transition to an inclusive, stable and prosperous democracy in the face of a national political stalemate and regional turmoil that had left it vulnerable to extremist violence. He added that notwithstanding the lack of progress between the political leaders of Iraq in resolving their differences, the expectations of Iraq with regard to UNAMI continued to grow. During the reporting period, the Special Representative said Iraq had made committed efforts to enforce law and order following the withdrawal of United States forces in December 2011. Additionally, the country had reclaimed its place at the diplomatic table by successfully hosting the Arab Summit in April and the talks of the five permanent members of the Security Council and Germany with the Islamic Republic of Iran in May. Other positive developments included the establishment of the Human Rights Commission and the election of new members to the Board of the Independent High Electoral Commission. The Special Representative added that an agreement to resume official oil exports from the Kurdistan region and progress on a hydrocarbon management framework merited encouragement and support, as they could advance the settling of internal boundaries. Given the continuing challenges with respect to Arab-Kurdish relations, UNAMI had focussed on national reconciliation and regional issues.

54. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General reiterated the appeal of the Secretary-General that Member States offer resettlement opportunities to the former residents of Camp Ashraf.

55. The Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations, Hamid al-Bayati, said that his country had made important progress in establishing the solid foundations of a democratic and federal State, with parties agreeing on the need to resolve the political crisis within a constitutional framework. Yet, he said, despite steady improvement in the security situation, terrorist attacks persisted. He called for a sustainable solution for the Camp Ashraf issue by resettling the camp residents in other countries. He added that there had been positive developments in Iraq's relations with Kuwait, including concrete steps towards settling unresolved issues that relate to the 1990 invasion.

56. In informal consultations following the briefing, the Council members expressed support for UNAMI activities, particularly in the areas of national reconciliation and internal boundaries. They called for the full implementation of Iraq's Chapter VII obligations.

Asia

Timor-Leste

57. On 12 November, the Security Council was briefed by the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations, Ambassador Baso Sangqu, who led a mini-mission to Timor-Leste from 3 to 6 November. The briefing was followed by a debate on the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT).

58. In his report, the Permanent Representative highlighted the considerable progress made by Timor-Leste since 2006, and said that the Timorese leadership had categorically conveyed that the country should no longer remain on the agenda of the Council and that UNMIT should withdraw by the end of 2012.

59. In the debate that followed, the Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste, Finn Reske-Nielsen, said that UNMIT would withdraw by the end of 2012 and that the Joint Transition Plan was being implemented as scheduled. He added that the end of the peacekeeping operation was justified by the successful completion of key benchmarks and a generally positive security situation. With regard to the contours of future United Nations involvement, the Acting Special Representative said that UNMIT was working closely with the Government, first and foremost through the work of the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes.

60. The Timorese Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, José Luis Guterres, highlighted the tremendous progress achieved since the establishment of UNMIT in 2006. Facilitating local ownership and leadership, the Government had moved to end the cyclical problems of the country's past, and to ensure that the Timorese people become an agent of peace and development.

61. The Council members supported the UNMIT drawdown by the end of the year, and encouraged the Government of Timor-Leste to share its experience and continue its contributions in peacekeeping and peacebuilding and to strengthen the country's engagement at the regional level, in particular with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Afghanistan

62. On 26 November, the members of the Security Council had an informal interactive dialogue with the Chairman of the High Peace Council of Afghanistan, Salahuddin Rabbani. The Chairman said that the peace process had reached a point where the prospects for peace were greater than ever, and many among the Taliban had come to realize that political dialogue was the only option. The High Peace Council was working to seize this opportunity and end the conflict through political settlement. The Chairman underlined that for those ready to renounce violence, sever ties with terrorist groups and accept the Afghan Constitution, he, as the Chairman of the High Peace Council, was ready to engage in negotiations regarding a respectful role for them in Afghan society. Since November 2012, the Chairman noted, close to 6,000 ex-combatants had joined the Afghan Peace and Reintegration Programme, which had helped improve security conditions in some parts of the country. The High Peace Council was also engaged in a comprehensive outreach effort to strengthen national consensus on the peace process and to further results-oriented talks. In order to take the process forward, the Chairman requested the Council to ensure coordination and consultation with the Government of Afghanistan on cases of listing and delisting.

63. In the ensuing discussion, Council members expressed support for the work of the High Peace Council and reiterated their commitment to support the peace process in Afghanistan.

Europe

Bosnia and Herzegovina

64. On 13 November, in a debate on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Valentin Inzko, thanked the

Council members for their readiness to encourage and support efforts to take Bosnia and Herzegovina forward towards the common objective of peace and stability. He stated that, during the reporting period, there had been a marked rise in challenges to the Peace Agreement, in particular to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina. He added that Bosnia and Herzegovina is in a critical phase, and the international community must express more clearly than ever what is expected of the political leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina and what will not be tolerated. They must stop their divisive behaviour and start leading the way to the country's full reintegration.

65. The Council members noted that the security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina had remained calm and stable. With respect to the current political situation, they supported the full implementation of the Peace Agreement and called upon all political parties and leaders to engage constructively and patiently for nation building. Most of the members opined that, given the lack of progress in the implementation of the five objectives and two conditions, the time was not right for considering the closure of the Office of the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina. One Council member said that the main task of the international community in the current phase of the Bosnian settlement process is to transfer responsibility for the fate of the country to the Bosnians themselves, and in that respect, favoured the closure of the Office of the High Representative.

66. On 14 November, the Council adopted resolution 2074 (2012) to extend the mandate of the European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina for another year.

United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

67. On 27 November, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Kosovo and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), Farid Zarif, briefed the Security Council on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). He said that thanks to the political will and courage demonstrated by Belgrade and Pristina, there had been significant progress during two sessions of European Union-facilitated dialogue on 19 October and 7 November. However, given the complexity of the issues that had continued to inhibit progress on both sides, it would be unreasonable to expect solutions to emerge easily or quickly. The Special Representative added that UNMIK was fulfilling its mandate as part of a genuine team that encompassed the Kosovo Force, the European Union Rule of Law Mission (EULEX), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the European Union Special Representative in Kosovo. UNMIK had also continued to monitor the situation affecting minority communities in Kosovo and, wherever possible, was providing good offices for the resolution of disputes and reduction of tensions on the ground.

68. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia, Ivan Mrkić, said that Serbia was committed to contributing to building peace, security and stability in the region, as well as to developing a platform for a common European future. Rejecting unilateral actions by any party, he said that Serbia continued to promote and pursue the policy of finding peaceful solutions in a constructive dialogue with Pristina. He added that UNMIK should have an important role to complement the European Union-facilitated dialogue, so that an effective exchange of information and reporting to the Security Council could be ensured. Calling for an active role on the ground by

both UNMIK and EULEX, in accordance with their mandates and in a status-neutral way, he stressed that the role of EULEX, especially at this moment, must not be changed. He also expressed concern for security and safety, as well as limited freedom of movement, of the Serbian minority in Kosovo.

69. Enver Hoxhaj termed the decision of the International Steering Group to end the supervised independence of Kosovo as a major milestone that ushered Kosovo in as a fully sovereign nation. He noted that Kosovo was proud of maintaining its multi-ethnic character by protecting, promoting and upholding the principles of multi-ethnicity and secularism.

70. The Council members expressed support for UNMIK activities and European Union-facilitated dialogue. Some members commended the achievements of Kosovo as an independent country. Others reiterated their support for the unity and territorial integrity of Serbia and expressed the belief that UNMIK should remain the main international presence in Kosovo.

Counter-terrorism

71. On 14 November, the Chairs of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) submitted the six-month reports on the work of these Committees. With respect to the 1373 Committee, activities including outreach activities, technical assistance to Member States for capacity-building, and enhanced transparency, among others, were mentioned. The Committee had also focused on enhancing synergies and cooperation among international, regional and subregional organizations and among various counter-terrorism structures.

72. With respect to the 1267/1989 Committee, it was mentioned that the threats from Al-Qaida continued to evolve, and there was an ever more complex variety of networks growing in a number of regions worldwide. The need was therefore to ensure that the Al-Qaida sanctions list remained dynamic and responsive to the changing nature of the threat.

73. With respect to the 1540 Committee, the ongoing effort to raise global awareness of the resolution was highlighted, thereby facilitating assistance to States to allow them to strengthen national capacity to implement its provisions, laying the foundation for improved mechanisms for sharing best practices, and promoting synergy with other international organizations in the effort to prevent non-State actors from acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

Thematic issues

Illicit cross-border trafficking and movement

74. At its informal consultations on 8 November, the Council considered the report of the Secretary-General on illicit cross-border trafficking and movement (S/2012/777) in informal consultations. The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs said that 20 United Nations agencies and 3 international organizations

(International Criminal Police Organization, World Customs Organization and International Organization for Migration) had come together to prepare the report, which testified to the multifaceted and complex nature of the subject. He emphasized that enforcement alone was not the solution, and a larger approach of integrating the rule of law, development, security and human rights was essential to tackle illicit trafficking. He set out five take-away points from the report: (i) conceptualizing the challenge: a holistic approach looking at supply and demand forces, apart from hardening borders; (ii) comprehensive and integrated action involving social, development, political and law enforcement activities; (iii) the need for greater coordination and cooperation between United Nations agencies and Member States; (iv) strengthening the resource base of United Nations agencies, in particular the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and underresourced peacekeeping missions; and (v) limitations of countries to take action where organized crime had infiltrated the State apparatus.

75. Welcoming the report, some members saw it as an important first step to bring the issue closer to the work of the Council, and expressed that the Council should work across the United Nations system and seek to pull together related strands of activity wherever possible. Other members emphasized that the existing system of tackling illicit trafficking was adequate and no new system was needed. Some members cautioned against the Council usurping many of the issues, which rightfully should be addressed by the General Assembly.

Piracy (maintenance of international peace and security)

76. On 19 November, the Council held an open debate on the theme "Maintenance of international peace and security: piracy", in which 44 delegations participated and the Council adopted a presidential statement. Presenting the report of the Secretary-General (S/2012/783), the Deputy Secretary-General, Jan Eliasson, said that combating piracy required a multidimensional approach, and what was needed immediately in that regard was better coordination between all actors, stronger capacity to prosecute piracy cases and imprison convicts, and the establishment of a framework governing the use of private security personnel. He said that the United Nations would remain committed to help consolidate international assistance for a comprehensive response.

77. Most speakers said that piracy represented a threat to international peace and security, and all agreed that piracy threatened the economic activities and maritime commerce across the affected regions and beyond. As such, they said, the threat should be addressed in a comprehensive manner. Many speakers also underlined the need for assistance to victims of piracy, including those held hostage by the pirates.

78. In its presidential statement (S/PRST/2012/24), the Council stressed the need for a comprehensive response to repress piracy and tackle its underlying causes for a durable eradication of piracy and armed robbery at sea and illegal activities connected therewith. The Council, inter alia, called upon States to cooperate, as appropriate, to secure the early release of hostages, including through the sharing of information and intelligence; took note of the proposals for a hostage support programme developed by the United Nations; noted the adoption by the International Maritime Organization of guidelines to assist in the investigation of the crimes of piracy and armed robbery against ships, revised interim guidance to ship owners, ship operators and shipmasters on the use of privately contracted

armed security personnel on board ships in the high risk area, as well as the revised interim recommendations for flag States, port States and coastal States regarding the use of privately contracted armed security personnel on board ships in the high risk area; and noted the request of some Member States regarding the need to review the boundaries of the High Risk Area on an objective and transparent basis taking into account actual incidents of piracy.

Working methods (Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2010/507))

79. On 26 November, the Security Council held an open debate on its working methods, in which more than 30 delegations participated. Most speakers acknowledged progress towards greater transparency and efficiency in the work of the Security Council, including the improvement in its engagement with other United Nations organs, regional organizations and troop-contributing countries. Some members of the Council said that it was important that the Council not lose sight of its main responsibility: to prevent and resolve conflict. The Council should also pursue greater efficiency, and aim to do more on conflict prevention. Some speakers called for more meaningful engagement between the Council and the wider United Nations membership, and greater transparency in the work of the subsidiary bodies of the Council, particularly sanctions Committees. Many speakers noted that there was a lot of room for improving the working methods of the Council. One speaker, while noting that the procedures of the Council should continue to evolve, warned that they should not be subjected to populism.

80. A number of participants advised the Council not to encroach upon the mandates of other United Nations organs. Several speakers noted that given the importance of the work of the Council for the entire international community, its working methods could not be the sole concern of the Council members, let alone the permanent members. Some participants advocated that the Council should agree on a veto restraint regime in situations involving, among other acts, genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Others said that the permanent members should exercise restraint in the exercise of the veto in such situations.

81. Several speakers said that in order for the Council to credibly and effectively address the current challenges, a comprehensive reform of the Security Council, including of its working methods and expansion of its membership, was necessary. I this regard, some speakers called for expansion of the membership of the Council in both permanent and non-permanent categories.

Non-proliferation

82. On 29 November, the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006), Ambassador José Filipe Moraes Cabral (Portugal), presented the 90-day report of the Committee to the Council in closed consultations. He said that during the reporting period, the Committee had held one meeting to discuss the recommendations in the final report of the Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution 1874 (2009) submitted in May 2012 (S/2012/422). The Committee also continued to perform its duties through informal consultations and the no objection procedure. The Chair added that while affirming that the primary responsibility for implementing the provisions of Security Council resolutions 1718 (2006) and 1874 (2009) rests with the States, the Committee stood ready to facilitate their implementation.

83. The Council members called for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions by all States, and stressed the need for all concerned not to undertake any action that could adversely impact peace and stability in the Korean peninsula. They also emphasized that the nuclear issue regarding the Democratic People's Republic of Korea should be resolved through diplomatic negotiations. Welcoming the midterm report of the Panel of Experts, some members called for the early conclusion of investigations into the reported violations of the sanctions regime contained therein.

Women and peace and security

84. On 30 November, the Security Council held an open debate on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security, in which 61 speakers participated.

85. The Deputy Secretary-General called for recognition of the role of women and their contribution in building a peaceful world. The Under-Secretary-General for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, Michelle Bachelet, said that wherever there was conflict, women must be part of the solution. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations said that women remained largely absent from or played symbolic roles in formal peace processes, and noted that a decisive step in removing obstacles to their full participation in conflict prevention and peacebuilding activities should be through active, systematic consultation with local actors and leaders, including women's civil society organizations. The President and founder of Femmes Africa Solidarité, Bineta Diop, said that despite much rhetoric and many commitments, the inclusion of women and gender expertise in designing and fulfilling peace accords was unacceptably low. She called on the international community to engage women's groups more actively in these processes.

86. The participants echoed the view that while some efforts had been made towards the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) in situations of armed conflict and post-conflict situations, much more must be done. They noted the important role that civil society, including women's organizations, can play in the prevention and resolution of armed conflict, peacebuilding and post-conflict situations, and encouraged the international community, regional organizations and concerned Member States to promote their active engagement and effective participation in a variety of roles, as appropriate, with a view to implementing resolution 1325 (2000).

Other issues

87. Newly elected members for the term 2013/14 started attending the Council meetings — the Republic of Korea from 1 November and Argentina, Australia, Luxembourg and Rwanda from 20 November.

88. The Council members and newly elected members attended the Finnish workshop on 15 and 16 November.

89. The President represented the Council at the event on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on 29 November and delivered a statement that was agreed consensually by the Council members.

United Nations S/2012/958

Security Council

Distr.: General
24 December 2012

Original: English

Letter dated 19 December 2012 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the request of the Security Council in presidential statement S/PRST/2012/1 of 19 January 2012, in which the Secretary-General was requested to provide a follow-up report to his report of 12 October 2011 on the rule of law and transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict societies (S/2011/634), within 12 months, to consider the effectiveness of United Nations system support to the promotion of the rule of law in conflict and post-conflict situations.

In the last 12 months, significant changes to the United Nations institutional arrangements in the rule of law area have been made. As you are aware, my Steering Committee on Civilian Capacities has been working to ensure that the United Nations can better respond to the needs of post-conflict societies in a number of priority areas, focusing its efforts in 2012 on the rule of law. At the same time, my Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group has been conducting an internal review of the institutional arrangements supporting the rule of law. Both these processes came to fruition this year, and led me to make the decision to reconfigure the way in which the United Nations delivers rule of law assistance in post-conflict States.

The effects of these institutional changes are currently being monitored, and will be analysed in a review of the effectiveness of our support to the promotion of the rule of law in conflict and post-conflict situations.

In order to provide the Security Council with a full view of all the elements, as requested in the above-mentioned presidential statement, which fully factors in these recent institutional changes, it is anticipated that my report to the Council will be issued by 31 October 2013. I therefore respectfully request an extension of the time frame for this report. In the meantime, I am ready to provide an update on this issue to the Council during its meeting on the rule of law in January 2013.

I would be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

12-66404 (E) 261212

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United Nations S/2012/959

Security Council

Distr.: General
24 December 2012

Original: English

Letter dated 24 December 2012 from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 19 December 2012 (S/2012/958), concerning the issuance of the report requested in the statement of the President of the Security Council of 19 January 2012 (S/PRST/2012/1) on the rule of law and transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict societies, has been brought to the attention of the members of the Council.

The members of the Security Council have taken note that there will be delays in the issuance of the report. It is the wish of the Council that the report be submitted to it as close to the due date as possible.

(*Signed*) Mohammed **Loulichki**
President of the Security Council

12-66411 (E) 261212

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United Nations A/67/680–S/2012/960

General Assembly
Security Council

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31 December 2012

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General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session
Agenda items 33 and 34

Prevention of armed conflict

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Sixty-seventh year

Letter dated 20 December 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to the ongoing violations of the ceasefire by the military forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan recorded for the month of November 2012 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 33 and 34, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Garen **Nazarian**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

12-66786 (E) 040113

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Annex to the letter dated 20 December 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Violations of the ceasefire by the armed forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 1-30 November 2012

1. On the borderline of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic:

   Total number of violations — 900

   Total number of shots ~ 3,824

   AK ~ 2,652, PK ~ 580, SVD ~ 455, DSHK ~ 31, RPK ~ 5, Black Arrow ~ 15, Istigal ~ 2, RPG ~ 1, NSVT ~ 30, NSVP ~ 53.[a]

2. On the borderline of the Republic of Armenia (see table below):

   Total number of violations — 79

   Total number of shots ~ 916

   AK ~ 551, PK ~ 296, SVD ~ 56, DSHK ~ 8, RPK ~ 5.[a]

No.	*Date*	*Direction*	*Time*	*Type of weapon*	*Ammunition*
1.	1 November	Mehrab	12.40	AK	50
2.	2 November	Movses	00.25	AK	3
3.		Vazashen	20.00	AK	5
4.			20.30	AK	20
5.		N. Karmiraghbyur	23.35	AK	10
6.	4 November	Aygepar	19.35	AK	2
7.		Voskepar	22.20	AK	2
8.		Baghanis	23.10	AK	1
9.	5 November	N. Karmiraghbyur	09.50	AK	6
10.			23.40	AK	50
11.		Chinari	16.45	SVD	5
12.		Berqaber	22.00	AK	10
13.	6 November	N. Karmiraghbyur	17.05	AK	4
14.	7 November	Voskevan	09.55	SVD	1
15.		N. Karmiraghbyur	14.00	AK	8

[a] PK — Kalashnikov machine gun
SVD — 7.9 mm sniper weapon
AK — Kalashnikov rifle
DSHK — 12.7 mm machine gun
RPK — 5.45 mm machine gun
NSVT — 12.7 mm machine gun
NSVP — 12.7 mm machine gun
Istigal — 14.5 mm machine gun
Black Arrow — 12.7 mm sniper weapon
RPG — Rocket-propelled grenade

No.	*Date*	*Direction*	*Time*	*Type of weapon*	*Ammunition*
16.		Barekamavan	15.50	SVD	1
17.		Aygepar	18.40	AK	1
18.	7 November	Sarigyugh	19.00	PK	10
19.	8 November	Chinari	13.00	SVD	6
20.		Arevaberd	18.00	AK	50
21.				SVD	10
22.				PK	10
23.		Berqaber	19.00	AK	30
24.	9 November	Aygepar	09.40	AK	1
25.		N. Karmiraghbyur	11.20	AK	1
26.		Movses	13.25	AK	3
27.			23.00	PK	30
28.			23.30	PK	50
29.	10 November	Movses	00.10	PK	12
30.			01.30	AK	6
31.		N. Karmiraghbyur	00.10	AK	3
32.			00.30	AK	2
33.	11 November	N. Karmiraghbyur	18.20	AK	25
34.		Aygepar	19.05	AK	2
35.		Movses	23.05	AK	8
36.	12 November	Movses	19.00	AK	5
37.			23.00	PK	4
38.		Koti	20.50	AK	2
39.		Aygepar	23.00	AK	2
40.	13 November		00.30	AK	100
41.				PK	20
42.		Aygepar	20.35	AK	1
43.		Koti	23.30	AK	4
44.	14 November	Voskepar	12.30	AK	1
45.		Khndzorut	17.35	AK	25
46.				SVD	3
47.		Aygepar	23.15	AK	3
48.	15 November	Aygedzor	02.45	PK	2
49.		Aygepar	10.35	AK	3
50.		Chinari	16.30	SVD	2
51.	15 November	Chinari	18.00	SVD	4
52.	16 November	Baghanis	14.40	SVD	3
53.				AK	1
54.				PK	3
55.		Berdavan	22.15	PK	50

No.	*Date*	*Direction*	*Time*	*Type of weapon*	*Ammunition*
56.	17 November	Berqaber	16.00	AK	3
57.				DSHK	1
58.			16.30	AK	30
59.		Khndzorut	18.15	PK	40
60.	19 November	Geghamasar	12.00	PK	
61.		Voskepar	17.40	AK	6
62.	20 November	Barekamavan	18.55	RPK	5
63.	22 November	Movses	21.50	AK	3
64.		Berdavan	22.40	AK	10
65.	23 November	Aygepar	18.00	AK	1
66.	24 November	Aygepar	13.25	AK	6
67.			22.05	AK	6
68.	26 November	Agarak	21.55	PK	25
69.			22.25	PK	20
70.	27 November	Barekamavan	11.35	SVD	5
71.		Berdavan	12.40	PK	20
72.		Barcruni	18.00	SVD	1
73.	28 November	Khndzorut	08.15	AK	15
74.		Agarak	13.30	DSHK	7
75.		Aygepar	17.15	AK	1
76.	29 November	Kiranc	10.30	AK	7
77.		Aygepar	12.45	AK	3
78.	30 November	Chinari	12.30-12.40	SVD	15
79.		Laligyugh	22.20	AK	10

United Nations S/2012/962

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 December 2012

Original: English

Letter dated 11 December 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a report of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Germany in September 2012 (see annex).

The report was prepared under my responsibility, after consultation with the other members of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Peter **Wittig**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations

12-66714 (E) 110113

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Annex to the letter dated 11 December 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Germany (September 2012)

Introduction

During the month of September 2012, under the presidency of the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations, Ambassador Peter Wittig, the Council adopted four resolutions and one presidential statement, and issued nine press statements. The Council held a high-level meeting on peace and security in the Middle East, which was presided over by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, Guido Westerwelle. It also held an open thematic debate on children and armed conflict.

Africa

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 18 September, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hervé Ladsous, briefed the Council in consultations of the whole on his visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda from 9 to 16 September. The visit aimed at preparing the high-level meeting of the Secretary-General on eastern Congo on 27 September 2012. Council members welcomed the engagement of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the African Union to help resolve the crisis. They stressed the need for a political solution, the need to address the root causes of the conflict and the need for all external support for militias in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo to end. Furthermore, Council members encouraged dialogue and confidence-building between Kinshasa and Kigali. In this context, they welcomed the launch of the enlarged Joint Verification Mechanism.

Liberia

On 6 September, the Security Council met in private with troop- and police-contributing countries to the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Liberia, Karin Landgren. The Special Representative described the proposed gradual drawdown of the UNMIL security footprint as a turning point for both the Mission and Liberia. Underlining the shared priority to maintain and preserve stability in Liberia, she stressed the need to ensure that transition in Liberia is carefully managed and adequately resourced. She called for utmost support from the police-contributing countries in order to fully strengthen the mentoring and advisory relationship of UNMIL with the Liberia National Police. With regard to the continued insecurity near the border with Côte d'Ivoire, she pointed out the Government's successful deployment of a joint task force, as well as the assistance in effective border management provided by UNMIL and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI). Troop-contributing countries and police-contributing countries

stressed the importance of inter-mission cooperation, with some troop-contributing countries and police-contributing countries stating their interest in necessary support for the Liberia National Police.

On 11 September, the Security Council held a briefing and consultations of the whole on UNMIL. It was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Liberia, the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission's Liberia Configuration, Ambassador Staffan Tillander (Sweden), and the Permanent Representative of Liberia, Ambassador Marjon Kamara. The Special Representative underlined that the improvement of the security situation in Liberia was not only a question of security sector reform, but was also one of enhancing reconciliation and implementing structural political changes. With regard to the security situation along the border with Côte d'Ivoire, UNMIL and UNOCI would continue to cooperate closely, while at the same time the cooperation between Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire could be enhanced. The envisaged reconfiguration of UNMIL, through the reduction of 4,200 military personnel over the next three years, would allow for a gradual transfer of the security responsibility from UNMIL to the Liberian authorities. Council members expressed their agreement with the envisaged reconfiguration of UNMIL; some underlined the necessity to proceed with caution, keeping in mind the still fragile security situation along Liberia's border with Côte d'Ivoire. Council members underlined the necessity for the Liberian authorities to focus more strongly on national reconciliation, constitutional reform, decentralization and an inclusive national dialogue. They welcomed the close cooperation between UNMIL and UNOCI and called for enhanced regional cooperation to improve security.

On 17 September, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2066 (2012), renewing the mandate of UNMIL for a further 12 months until 30 September 2013. By this resolution, the Council decided to reduce the UNMIL military component by 1,990 personnel over the mandate period, subject to and consistent with conditions in the area of operations, and decided to increase the UNMIL police component by three formed police units as soon as possible, with the first unit deploying no later than January 2013. At the same time, UNMIL and UNOCI were encouraged to enhance their cooperation in order to assist stabilizing the border region between Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire.

Sudan and South Sudan

On 6 September the Security Council held consultations of the whole on the Sudan and South Sudan. The Council was briefed by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan, Haile Menkerios. The Special Envoy referred to the situation on the ground, the implementation of Security Council resolution 2046 (2012) and the ongoing negotiations between the Sudan and South Sudan in Addis Ababa.

On 20 September, the Security Council held consultations of the whole on the Sudan and South Sudan. The Council was briefed by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General. The Special Envoy reported about the negotiations between the Sudan and South Sudan in Addis Ababa that had entered a crucial phase shortly before the arrival of the two Heads of State. He also reported on the situation along the border between the two countries and on the humanitarian crisis in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States of the Sudan.

On 20 September, the Security Council held consultations of the whole on Sudan sanctions. The Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan and Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations, Ambassador Néstor Osorio, briefed the Council on the work of the sanctions Committee.

On 21 September, the Security Council issued a press statement on the Sudan and South Sudan welcoming the resumed negotiations under the auspices of the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel and affirming that it was the responsibility of the two presidents to bridge the remaining gaps in the negotiations in accordance with the African Union road map and the decisions of the Security Council. The statement also referred to the humanitarian crisis in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States and urged direct talks between the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/North.

On 28 September, the Security Council issued a press statement on the Sudan and South Sudan applauding the agreements reached by the Presidents of the two States in Addis Ababa the day before. The statement further underlined the critical importance of immediate and full implementation of the agreements and called on the parties to reach agreement with regard to the outstanding issues.

Somalia

On 18 September, the Security Council adopted unanimously resolution 2067 (2012) on Somalia, in which it welcomed the progress made in Somalia over the past 12 months, which had culminated in the election of the new President. The Council also expressed its determination to work closely with the new Somali institutions and emphasized the critical role of the new Somali authorities in achieving reconciliation, lasting peace and stability in the country. The Council also looked forward to the upcoming inter-agency review of the United Nations presence in Somalia and requested options and recommendations by the Secretary-General by 31 December 2012.

On 21 September, the Security Council issued a press statement on the terrorist attacks that had occurred in Mogadishu the day before. The statement reiterated the resolve of the Council to support Somalia in its efforts for peace and reconciliation.

Sierra Leone

On 11 September, the Security Council held a briefing and consultations of the whole on the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL). The Executive Representative of the Secretary-General to Sierra Leone and Head of UNIPSIL, Jens Anders Toyberg-Frandzen, the Chairperson of the Sierra Leone country-specific configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations, Ambassador Guillermo Rishchynski and the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations, Ambassador Shekou Touray, briefed the Council on the developments in the country ahead of the upcoming presidential, parliamentary and local elections to be held on 17 November. Council members underlined the importance of peaceful, fair and free elections as a further step in peace consolidation and expressed their expectation that all stakeholders adhere to their commitments under the declaration of 18 May 2012. The Council also considered the post-election period and noted that

root causes of conflict in Sierra Leone, as well as youth unemployment and management of natural resources, needed further attention.

With regard to UNIPSIL, Council members agreed to extend the current mandate for a period of six months until 31 March 2013, with the objective of reviewing the mandate in early 2013 and after the deployment of a technical assessment mission, which should make recommendations regarding the further planning of the anticipated transition of UNIPSIL to a conventional United Nations country team.

On 12 September, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2065 (2012), renewing the mandate of UNIPSIL for six months and requesting the Secretary-General to provide a report containing detailed proposals and a recommended timeline for the transition, drawdown and exit strategy of UNIPSIL no later than 15 February 2013.

Libya

On 12 September, the Security Council heard a briefing by Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman on the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), followed by consultations of the whole. The Council had before it the report of the Secretary-General on UNSMIL issued on 30 August 2012 (S/2012/675). Mr. Feltman condemned, in the strongest terms, the 11 September attack on the United States diplomatic facility in Benghazi, Libya, in which four United States diplomatic personnel were killed. The briefing focused on political and security developments in Libya and the activities of UNSMIL since 1 March 2012, including steps taken by UNSMIL to ensure that the Mission would continue to support the specific needs of Libya following the election of the new government. During consultations, the members of the Security Council welcomed the report of the Secretary-General and the appointment of Tarek Mitri as the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Libya and Head of UNSMIL. Members of the Council shared the assessment by the Secretary-General that the elections on 7 July were a significant step forward in the democratic transition of Libya. They welcomed further steps taken in the transition process, including the election of the General National Congress and its President, Mr. Al-Magariaf. Council members stressed the importance of the constitutional development process, including the need to address regional grievances and to guarantee and protect human rights. Council members largely agreed with the assessment of the Secretary-General that serious political and security challenges remained.

The Council also underlined the need for comprehensive security sector reform, including improved border security, to address arms proliferation. Council members also underlined that improvements in the human rights situation were required, particularly related to the situation of detainees, migrant workers and third-party nationals. Members of the Council welcomed the role played by UNSMIL in supporting the Libyan authorities and the Libyan people in the transition process. Council members noted the assessment made by the Secretary-General that the current mandate provided UNSMIL with the scope and breadth it required in order to support the needs of the future Government. In consultations, Council members unanimously condemned the attack on United States diplomatic personnel. A press statement was adopted in which the members of the Security Council condemned in

the strongest terms the attack on the United States of America diplomatic mission and personnel in Benghazi, Libya.

Guinea-Bissau

On 18 September, the Security Council held consultations of the whole on Guinea-Bissau. The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs briefed on the restoration of constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau, pursuant to resolution 2048 (2012). Council members shared concerns about the continuing political stalemate in Guinea-Bissau, and reiterated their call for enhanced dialogue and coordination between the different stakeholders. Furthermore, Council members considered the possibility of a road map for the transition process.

Peace and security in Africa (Sahel region)

On 17 September, the Security Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs on peace and security and Africa focusing on the situation in the Sahel, including Mali. On the situation in Mali, the Council also heard a briefing by the Economic Community of African States (ECOWAS), represented by the Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire, to the United Nations, Youssoufou Bamba.

The Council members welcomed the progress made in developing a United Nations integrated regional strategy for the Sahel, pursuant to resolution 2056 (2012). Council members took note of the United Nations ongoing plans to finalize the United Nations Sahel strategy through a consultative process with States of the Sahel, relevant regional and other organizations, and international partners. They looked forward to the finalization of a strategic document and proposals of adequate mechanisms for a coordinated implementation of the integrated United Nations Sahel strategy.

On 21 September, the Security Council issued a press statement calling on the Malian transitional authorities to continue efforts to strengthen democratic institutions and restore constitutional order through the holding of elections by the end of the transition. The members of the Council reiterated their concern about the security and humanitarian situation in the north of Mali and the presence of terrorist elements, including Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb and affiliated groups. The Council took note of the request of the interim Malian Government for assistance to ECOWAS and expressed its readiness to consider a feasible and actionable proposal from ECOWAS addressing the request.

Asia

Afghanistan

On 20 September, the Security Council held a debate on the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). The Council had before it a report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implication for international peace and security (A/67/354-S/2012/703). The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan, Zalmai Rassoul, participated in the debate. The Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and Head of UNAMA, Ján Kubiš.

The Special Representative welcomed the Kabul and Tokyo Conferences, where the Government of Afghanistan and the international community had reiterated their long-term mutual commitments and had commended the progress in the framework of the Istanbul process. The Special Representative welcomed the continued momentum of this initiative and the gradual start of the activities of the relevant working groups on confidence-building measures. He welcomed the emerging interest of regional organizations, notably of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Collective Security Treaty Organization, in engaging with Afghanistan and UNAMA in a structured dialogue for the benefit of Afghanistan and the region.

The Special Representative said that security transition was on track with the ongoing implementation of the first three tranches of transition. The number of civilian casualties had decreased in the first eight months of 2012 as compared to the previous year. However, in August there was the second highest number of civilian casualties since the beginning of UNAMA's recording of casualties.

According to the Special Representative, these trends thus failed to reflect improvements in the institutional structures required for long-term stability and to generate a change in the security perception of the Afghan population.

Concerning the future work of UNAMA, the Special Representative stressed that pending budget cuts might have an adverse impact on the work of UNAMA. In order to maintain its effectiveness in implementing its core mandate, UNAMA was conducting a programme criticality exercise. He assured the Security Council that providing good offices, the preparation of presidential elections in 2014, reconciliation and improvements in the human rights situation, and donor coordination were continuing priorities for UNAMA.

Latin America

Haiti

On 12 September 2012, the Security Council held a private meeting with troop- and police-contributing countries to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti, Mariano Fernández, briefed the Council and troop- and police-contributing countries on the recent report of the Secretary-General (S/2012/678), including the security situation in the country and the activities of MINUSTAH.

Middle East

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 17 September 2012, the Security Council heard a briefing by the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Robert Serry, on the situation in the Middle East, followed by consultations of the whole. The Special Coordinator said that the lack of progress on the political track and ongoing conflict and occupation put at risk the very viability of the two-State solution. He highlighted the budget deficit of the Palestinian Authority as an issue of immediate concern, especially in the light of recent protests in the West Bank. While Israel had advanced some tax transfers in order to enable the Authority to pay salaries, the

implementation of donor commitments and additional contributions were urgently needed. The lack of a political perspective compounded the frustration felt among the Palestinian population, which put at risk the progress achieved in building a functional State. The Special Coordinator also reported a spike in violence, including so-called "price-tag activities", by extremist settlers. He stressed the importance of Palestinian access to and development in Area C of the West Bank for the viability of a future Palestinian State. Council members shared the concern about the financial situation of the Palestinian Authority and called for further support, especially of Arab donors. They further noted a worrying increase in settler violence in the West Bank. Some Council members called for an early meeting of the Middle East Quartet principals. Many Council members condemned as illegal settlement activity in the occupied Palestinian territory. Council members reiterated their condemnation of the attacks on diplomatic personnel and premises, following the publication of a defamatory video.

On 26 September 2012, the Security Council held a high-level debate on peace and security in the Middle East. The debate was presided over by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany and was also attended by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, China, Colombia, France, Guatemala, Morocco, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Togo, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. The Council heard briefings by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary General of the League of Arab States, Nabil Elaraby.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations highlighted the transformations in the Arab world, which had given the League of Arab States a new sense of purpose. He noted that both the United Nations and the League of Arab States worked to help ensure the transparency of landmark elections in Tunisia and Libya. On the Syrian Arab Republic, the League of Arab States had contributed to the United Nations Supervision Mission in Syria (UNSMIS), and had co-appointed both the former Joint Special Envoy on the Syrian crisis, Kofi Annan, and the Joint Special Representative for Syria, Lakhdar Brahimi. The United Nations Secretary-General cited four areas that merited special attention: improving the exchange of information, including through dialogue between the secretariats of the two bodies; the possible placement of the Office of the Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States for Syria in Cairo; giving priority to conflict prevention; and exploring new areas for collaboration such as sustainable energy.

The Secretary General of the Arab League said that a fundamental pillar for international peace and security is the effectiveness and credibility of the Security Council, as well as the full implementation of its resolutions. With regard to both the Palestinian question and the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, he called for action by the Council that would be binding on the parties. He further proposed that the cooperation agreement signed in 1989 between the League of Arab States and the United Nations be updated, and that the status of regular meetings between the organizations be raised, as well as closer cooperation on humanitarian assistance.

Council members commended the active role of the League of Arab States as a crucial partner of the United Nations in the region. They highlighted the worsening situation in the Syrian Arab Republic and the urgent need for renewed efforts by the Council to address it. Some Council members called for the implementation of the

Geneva communiqué. Several Council members said that, while the transformations in the Arab world deserved support, close attention remained necessary to the situation of human rights, especially of women and minorities. Council members expressed different views on the desirability of legal restrictions on defamatory remarks on religions.

The Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2012/20) recognizing and further encouraging efforts by the League of Arab States towards promoting international responses to the transformations in the region, welcoming its intensifying cooperation with the United Nations, supporting the efforts of the Joint Special Representative for Syria and calling for strengthened cooperation between both organizations across a broad agenda. The statement reiterated the commitment of the Council to a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. It recalled the press statements of the Council of 12 and 14 September regarding recent attacks on diplomatic personnel and premises, and reaffirmed that such acts are unjustifiable regardless of their motivations, whenever and by whomsoever committed. It also stressed the importance of respect and understanding for religious and cultural diversity throughout the world.

On 24 September, during consultations of the whole, the Security Council heard the first formal briefing by the Joint Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary General of the League of Arab States for Syria, since his appointment on 17 August 2012. These consultations were chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany. Joint Special Representative Brahimi informed the Council on the preparations undertaken for the work of the United Nations liaison office in Damascus and on the meetings he had held with Government and civil society representatives in Damascus, Cairo, Jordan and Paris. He updated the Council on the security and humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic and its impact on neighbouring States, as well as on his efforts to support the Syrian people in entering a political transition process. The Joint Special Representative called on the Council to provide him with collective, united and sustained support. The members of the Security Council welcomed the opportunity to discuss the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic with the Joint Special Representative following his visit to the region. They expressed their grave concern about the ongoing violence in the Syrian Arab Republic and its humanitarian impact, and the potential risks for regional peace and stability. The members of the Council reaffirmed their full support for the Joint Special Representative and his efforts to bring about a ceasefire and to support a political transition in the Syrian Arab Republic that would meet the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people.

Yemen

The Security Council continued to closely follow the transition process in Yemen. On 13 September, the Security Council adopted a press statement condemning in the strongest terms the terrorist attack that occurred in Sana'a on 11 September, causing numerous deaths and injuries.

On 18 September, the Security Council held consultations of the whole, during which the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Jamal Benomar, reported on the recent political and security developments, and the Deputy Director of the Coordination and Response Division of the Office of the Coordinator of

Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, Philippe Lazzarini, reported on the humanitarian situation. The members of the Council agreed that the comprehensive and inclusive national dialogue should begin without delay, in order to lay the foundation for a stable and unified Yemen. They also expressed their support for the steps taken by President Hadi in reforming and restructuring the security sector. Council members shared the concern raised by Mr. Benomar regarding ongoing attempts to undermine the transition process and, recalling Security Council resolution 2051 (2012), they stressed the need for the Council to continue to closely follow the situation in Yemen. The members of the Council expressed their concern about the dire humanitarian situation in Yemen and agreed that it required an urgent response.

On 28 September, the Security Council adopted a press statement welcoming the Friends of Yemen ministerial meeting of 27 September 2012, as well as the statement of its co-Chairs. They also reaffirmed their commitment to the territorial integrity, sovereignty and unity of Yemen. The members of the Council reiterated their support for Yemen in its efforts to reach key milestones in the implementation plan and called upon all parties to continue to honour the timetable set out in the transition agreement. The Council re-emphasized the importance of conducting a fully inclusive, participatory, transparent and meaningful national dialogue conference, including with youth and women's groups. They welcomed the continued engagement of the good offices of the Secretary-General and of his Special Adviser. The members of the Council urged all the parties in Yemen to reject acts of violence to achieve political goals, to refrain from provocations and to abide by resolutions 2014 (2011) and 2051 (2012). They expressed increasing concern about efforts to undermine the national unity Government as it endeavoured to implement the political transition agreement, and reiterated their readiness to consider further measures, including under Article 41 of the Charter of the United Nations, if such actions continued. They repeated their call that all those responsible for human rights violations and abuses must be held accountable. The Council welcomed the more than $7 billion pledged at the Riyadh donor conference, as well as the Friends of Yemen meeting and the agreement of the Government of Yemen to a mutual accountability framework setting out commitments of the Government and donors to ensure that these additional resources deliver support to the people of Yemen. The members of the Council reiterated their grave concern at the humanitarian situation in Yemen and that all parties should ensure safe and unhindered humanitarian access.

Thematic and general issues

On 11 September, the Security Council adopted a press statement condemning in the strongest terms the wave of terrorist attacks across Iraq on 8 and 9 September that had caused numerous deaths and injuries and damage to the French honorary consulate premises in Nasiriyah.

On 12 September, the Security Council adopted a press statement on attacks against United States diplomatic personnel, condemning in the strongest terms the attack on the United States diplomatic mission and personnel in Benghazi, Libya, on 11 September, and expressing their deep sympathy and sincere condolences to the victims of this heinous act and to their families. The Council also condemned in the strongest terms the attack on the United States Embassy in Cairo, on 11 September.

The members of the Council underlined the need to bring the perpetrators of these acts to justice, and reaffirmed that such acts are unjustifiable, regardless of their motivations, whenever and by whomsoever committed. The Council recalled the fundamental principle of the inviolability of diplomatic and consular premises, and the relevant obligations of host Governments to take all appropriate steps to protect diplomatic and consular premises and personnel.

On 14 September, the Security Council adopted a press statement on attacks against diplomatic premises, condemning in the strongest terms the series of violent attacks against embassies and consular premises of Member States in multiple locations on 13 and 14 September. The Council expressed its deep concern at these attacks, recalling that the very nature of diplomatic premises is peaceful and that diplomats have among their core functions the promotion of better understanding across countries and cultures. The members of the Council reaffirmed that such acts are unjustifiable, regardless of their motivations, whenever and by whomsoever committed. Recalling the fundamental principle of the inviolability of diplomatic and consular premises, and the obligations of host Governments, the Council called on all authorities to protect diplomatic and consular property and personnel, and to respect fully their international obligations in this regard.

Non-proliferation (Islamic Republic of Iran)

On 20 September, the Security Council met for a briefing on Iran sanctions. The Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) and Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations, Ambassador Néstor Osorio, delivered his 90-day report on the work of the Committee to the Security Council covering the period from 12 June to 12 September. In his report, the Chair noted, inter alia, that the Committee had received several communications relating to the implementation of relevant Security Council measures, and that the Committee, among others, was seeking full cooperation from Member States in gathering information about an incident involving the inspection and seizure of three shipping containers of arms and arms-related materiel on board the *M/V Victoria*.

Following the briefing, Council members voiced strong support for the work of the Committee and the Panel of Experts. Some members expressed deep concern about the Islamic Republic of Iran's non-compliance with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Security Council resolutions, as well as the Islamic Republic of Iran's ballistic missile programme and supply of weaponry to the Syrian Arab Republic, and urged the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) to take swift action and allow for the consistent implementation of sanctions. Other Council members called upon the Committee to strictly adhere to its mandate, advocating a balanced approach between sanctions and negotiations. With regard to the Islamic Republic of Iran's nuclear issue, Council members expressed their hope for a positive and peaceful solution through dialogue, welcoming the latest IAEA resolution and negotiations by the E3+3 group.

Rule of law

On 24 September, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, in his capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of September 2012, addressed the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law at the national and

international levels. In his statement, he highlighted the fact that several presidential statements had recognized the crucial relevance of the rule of law across the full spectrum of the Council's agenda, and pointed to those thematic and country-specific resolutions adopted by the Council since 2003 that relate to the rule of law in both its international and national dimensions.

Briefing by the Department of Political Affairs

On 17 September, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs provided a horizon-scanning briefing to the Security Council during consultations of the whole, covering United Nations electoral assistance to Member States. The briefing focused on principles guiding electoral assistance, lessons learned from previous assistance missions and trends regarding violence in the context of elections.

Children and armed conflict

On 19 September, the Security Council held an open debate on children and armed conflict with a special focus on accountability for perpetrators of violations and abuses against children in armed conflict. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Leila Zerrougui, submitted the yearly report of the Secretary-General (A/66/782-S/2012/261) and briefed the Council on her work, as did the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hervé Ladsous, and the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund, Anthony Lake. The Council was also addressed by the President of the International Center for Transitional Justice, David Tolbert, on how to better achieve accountability for crimes against children in armed conflict.

Council members stressed their broad support for the United Nations children and armed conflict agenda and the important role of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. Some Council members expressed concern about the fact that the report of the Secretary-General included certain situations that were not on the Council's agenda.

The Council adopted resolution 2068 (2012), with 11 votes in favour and 4 abstentions, which reiterated the readiness of the Council to take all measures necessary to protect children in armed conflict.

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Security Council

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Letter dated 27 December 2012 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), I have the honour to refer to paragraph 9 of resolution 1977 (2011) and to transmit herewith the review of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) for 2012.

I would appreciate it if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council and have them circulated as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Baso **Sangqu**
Chair
Security Council Committee established
pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

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Review of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) for 2012

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 1540 (2004), the Security Council expressed its intention to monitor closely the implementation of the resolution and, at the appropriate level, to take further decisions towards the more effective undertaking of that task. On 20 April 2011, the Council, noting that the full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by all States was a long-term task, unanimously adopted resolution 1977 (2011) extending the mandate of the Committee for 10 years. The Council decided that there would be annual reviews, prepared with the assistance of a group of experts, which would act under the direction and purview of the Committee in accordance with paragraph 5 of resolution 1977 (2011), before the end of each December. The present review, which derives from paragraph 9 of resolution 1977 (2011), reflects the status of States' implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and their efforts at outreach, dialogue, assistance and cooperation, as well as other activities relevant to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), during the period from 1 January to 31 December 2012.

2. In consultation with the Committee and in accordance with resolutions 1977 (2011) and 2055 (2012), a group of nine experts was established by the Secretary-General (see S/2012/585).

II. Methodology

3. The annual review for 2012 is in two parts. The first part is a factual summary of activities in the areas of implementation; assistance; cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations; and transparency and outreach. The second part is an assessment of progress and future perspectives and is analytical, and includes a forward-looking perspective. Drawing, inter alia, on the recommendations of the annual review of 2011, the present review assesses progress in the implementation of the priorities set out in resolution 1540 (2004) with a view to exploring additional measures in this regard. It also draws upon the information submitted by the Committee to the Security Council in order to identify effective practices and raise awareness of future challenges. The outreach events are listed in annex I, including those attended by the Chair, members or experts of the Committee. Annex II shows the events for which formal invitations were received but which were not attended by the aforementioned individuals.

III. Progress and achievements

A. Monitoring and national implementation

4. In 2012, the Committee continued the facilitation and monitoring of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by States. A review of certain Committee matrices has been conducted by the experts on the basis of additional information submitted by States. The matrices represent a valuable tool for the general examination of information on the status of implementation by States of resolution

1540 (2004). The Committee's working group on monitoring and national implementation agreed that modification of the template for the matrix form was desirable in order to improve it and make it, inter alia, more user-friendly.

5. In 2012, one more State, the Congo, submitted its first report on the steps it had taken towards the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), bringing the total number of national implementation reports submitted by States to 169. Twenty-four Member States have yet to make their first submission. In this regard, the Committee and its experts continued to engage the non-reporting States on an individual and multilateral basis.

6. The Security Council, in its resolution 1977 (2011), encouraged States to provide additional information on their implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), including, voluntarily, on their effective practices. In 2012, six States (Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Serbia and Slovenia) provided additional information.

7. The Security Council, in its resolution 1977 (2011), also encouraged States to prepare, on a voluntary basis, national implementation action plans that mapped out their priorities and plans for implementing key provisions of resolution 1540 (2004). In 2012, two States, Serbia and Belarus, submitted their national action plans, bringing to six the number of such plans received by the Committee. The plan of Serbia was posted on the website of the Committee with its consent. Kyrgyzstan prepared a draft action plan which was discussed with the experts of the Committee. A number of States announced their intent to prepare action plans as well.

8. The Security Council, in its resolution 1977 (2011), recognized the importance of the active engagement and dialogue of the Committee with States on their implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), including through visits at the invitation of the States. In addition to the visit to the United States of America conducted in September 2011, the experts of the Committee, accompanied by a representative of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, participated in a follow-up visit to Atlanta, United States of America. In 2012, in response to invitations received from Albania, the Congo and Madagascar, the Committee conducted visits to those States. Experts participated in country-specific activities on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) with Belarus, Ecuador, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In 2012, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan held their national round tables, with the participation of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Throughout 2012, the Committee continued to interact with States and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to promote, inter alia, the sharing of experiences, lessons learned and effective practices.

9. During the reporting period, Bahrain informed the Committee that, in order to meet several obligations related to resolution 1540 (2004), it had adopted decree No. 1 (2011) concerning the establishment of the Supreme Energy Commission, and decision No. 5 (2011) concerning the formation of a national commission for the prohibition of chemical weapons. Serbia reported on the adoption in 2011 of a framework law on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and on their destruction. Serbia also reported on its adoption in 2011 of a new control list on dual-use items. Slovenia reported that an act amending the criminal procedure code had entered into force

regarding illicit production and trafficking of arms, explosives and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials.

B. Assistance and capacity-building

10. The Committee continued to discuss, including in its working group on assistance, the following main areas for potential progress: improving assistance procedures; identifying and analysing assistance needs; furthering the dialogue on assistance with relevant international, regional, subregional and, as appropriate, non-governmental organizations; strengthening the ability of the Committee and its experts to facilitate assistance; and increasing awareness of assistance issues. The facilitation of "matchmaking" between assistance requests and offers was the focus of the Committee's activities, and the experts regularly briefed the Committee on those efforts.

11. In 2012, the Committee received official requests for assistance from the Congo (included in its first national report) and Mexico, as well as from the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). In a continuous effort to keep the list of requests up to date and in line with the 2010 revised procedures for assistance requests, the Committee sent follow-up letters to several assistance requestors which included information received from potential assistance providers. The Committee took note of the response of Japan to the assistance request submitted by Mexico.

12. In fulfilling its clearing house function in a transparent manner, the Committee posted on its website requests for assistance from 38 Member States and from two subregional organizations, as well as offers of assistance from 46 Member States and a number of international, regional and subregional organizations or entities.

13. With the objective of facilitating technical assistance for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by matching offers and requests for assistance, the Committee and its experts continued and intensified the dialogue with the Working Group of the Group of Eight Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction on the consolidated list of assistance requests. On the occasion of five Working Group meetings in 2012, the Committee and its experts invited members and participating international organizations to consider the assistance requests submitted to the Committee and to provide feedback to it. In the context of those meetings, the experts briefed the Global Partnership members on the status of the assistance requests and presented possible matchmaking options with a view to facilitating the delivery of assistance related to resolution 1540 (2004) in a timely and effective manner.

14. Furthermore, in accordance with the matchmaking role of the Committee, its experts continued consultations with officials from numerous States, in particular on existing and new assistance requests.

15. During the 2012 visits to Albania, the Congo and Madagascar, a Committee member and experts discussed, inter alia, assistance needs and possibilities with national entities. The visits to States allowed for intensive dialogues with national entities and proved to be effective in better identifying and analysing assistance needs.

16. Furthermore, during country-specific activities and other outreach events, the Committee experts also regularly discussed assistance matters and raised awareness of the clearing house role of the Committee.

17. Committee experts also contributed to regional training and capacity-building workshops, for example, at the OSCE Border Management Staff College in Tajikistan and at the European Security and Defence College.

18. In 2012, the Committee continued to use and promote the revised guidelines adopted in October 2010 to rationalize, improve and accelerate the response to assistance requests and to facilitate matchmaking.

19. In the context of its dialogue on assistance with States and relevant international, regional, subregional and, as appropriate, non-governmental organizations, the Committee continued to follow discussions on new trends in assistance. The Chair welcomed the assistance activity in a statement at the workshop entitled "Implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004): innovative approaches to capacity-building and assistance", held in Warsaw, which was organized by the Government of Poland in cooperation with the Office for Disarmament Affairs.

20. The Security Council, in its resolution 1977 (2011), encouraged meetings on assistance issues, with the participation of the Committee, among States prepared to offer assistance, States requesting assistance, other interested States and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations. Preparations have been made for a conference set to take place in early 2013, which will be hosted by the Government of France and organized in cooperation with the Office for Disarmament Affairs. The aim is to facilitate the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by addressing important matters related to assistance.

21. Saudi Arabia expressed willingness to continue to work with the Committee, including through financial support for specific projects, which will effectively contribute to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by States. In this regard, Saudi Arabia pledged $500,000 for such activities.

22. The Government of the United States provided an additional $1.5 million to the Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament Activities, bringing its total contribution to $4.5 million to support efforts to facilitate universal implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

23. The European Union is currently in the process of finalizing a European Council decision in support of resolution 1540 (2004).

C. Cooperation with other organizations and entities

24. With the support of the experts, the Committee continued its cooperation with relevant international, regional and subregional organizations and other entities and arrangements. It also continued its interaction in that area with academic institutions, civil society and representatives of the private sector, as appropriate.

25. A workshop entitled "Building new synergies on nuclear security" was held in New Delhi on 30 November and 1 December 2012. It was organized by India in cooperation with the Office for Disarmament Affairs. Participants at the workshop included representatives of all countries represented on the Security Council

(current as well as new incoming members), the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), representatives of the Committee and representatives of the chairs of the three Nuclear Security Summits. Discussions at the workshop were substantive and focused on building new synergies on nuclear security.

Cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations

26. The Coordinator of the working group on cooperation with international organizations, including the Security Council Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1373 (2001), discussed with the Committee experts possible options for the development of a Committee strategy on engaging international, regional and subregional organizations and other entities.

27. Interaction with relevant international, regional and subregional organizations and other intergovernmental institutions and arrangements, in particular those possessing non-proliferation expertise, continued to contribute to the effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by strengthening cooperation through the exchange of information, the sharing of implementation experiences and lessons learned and achieving closer coordination in facilitating assistance to Member States, regional and subregional organizations. It also provided valuable insights into the common needs and priorities of their members and helped to deliver assistance related to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

28. The Committee intensified its collaboration with IAEA in the area of nuclear security through various events, such as a topical meeting on nuclear security support centres and a meeting on nuclear security information exchange, both held in Austria, at the initiative of IAEA. The Committee also intensified its collaboration with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, including through participation in the International Meeting on Chemical Safety and Security held in Tarnow, Poland. The Committee also continued cooperation with the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit, including on the development of a national implementation guide for the Convention, supported by the European Union Joint Action in support of the Convention, and implemented by the Office for Disarmament Affairs (Geneva branch).

29. In 2012, the Committee and its experts participated in five meetings of the Group of Eight Global Partnership Working Group. The Committee and the Working Group continued to support the shared goal of preventing by any means non-State actors from developing, acquiring, manufacturing, possessing, transporting, transferring or using nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their delivery systems. The Chair of the Committee briefed the Working Group in Stockholm, sharing information on the current status of assistance requests and affirming the Committee's interest in constant dialogue with the Working Group on all issues related to assistance and capacity-building. In November 2012, the Committee provided an informal paper for the Global Partnership on opportunities for collaboration between the Global Partnership and the 1540 Committee.

30. The Committee and its experts continued to cooperate on a regular basis with other partners, such as the World Organization for Animal Health, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Financial Action Task Force, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, the

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Customs Organization and the World Health Organization. In 2012, INTERPOL formally provided the Committee with its point of contact.

31. During the reporting period, regional and subregional organizations continued to play an important role in enhancing the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). The Organization of American States cooperated in running a seminar for the States of the Andean region held in Bogota, and collaborated with States from Latin America, such as Mexico, on the development of their implementation workplans. CARICOM promoted the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in the region through continuous dialogue, and liaised with the Committee experts on possible joint activities, such as visits to States at their invitation. OSCE also facilitated the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by OSCE-participating States through various activities. Committee experts, together with the OSCE, directly assisted several OSCE-participating States in the preparation of their voluntary national action plans. OSCE also shared with the Committee point-of-contact information for 44 of its participating States, in accordance with its decision 19/11 entitled "Points of contact on UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)" adopted in December 2011. OSCE also organized in Vienna, with the support of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, a round-table meeting on coordination needs and practices related to resolution 1540 (2004) in February 2012 attended by 12 international and regional organizations and entities.

32. The CARICOM regional coordinator, the Central American Integration System project coordinator and the OSCE adviser for issues related to resolution 1540 (2004) have also played a role in maintaining contact with the Committee experts and in sharing information on a regular basis.

33. The dialogue on resolution 1540 (2004) with the African Union has been further facilitated by the designation of a point of contact by that organization as submitted to the Committee in August 2011. In this context, a workshop on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) for African States, hosted by the Government of South Africa, in collaboration with the African Union and supported by the Office for Disarmament Affairs, on 21 and 22 November 2012, constituted an important opportunity to explore means of further facilitating the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), including the role of the African Union therein. The workshop was attended by the Chair, Committee members and experts.

34. In order to promote the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), the Committee experts interacted on several occasions with other subregional organizations, such as the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development.

35. The Committee and its experts participated in several activities, including activities organized by the European Union, the Presidency of the Group of Eight Global Partnership, IAEA, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, during which the "centre of excellence" concept was discussed, as well as their contribution to the effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by States. The Committee was also informed of developments in the context of the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence project of the European Union.

Cooperation with United Nations entities

36. The Committee experts were involved, as a Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force entity, in the preparation of the September 2012 high-level meeting on countering nuclear terrorism, convened by the Secretary-General and organized by the Task Force. The Committee experts also benefited from various interactions and the sharing of information with the Task Force, including on upcoming activities of common interest, such as those conducted in the framework of the Working Groups on Preventing and Responding to Weapons of Mass Destruction Attacks and on Border Management related to Counter-Terrorism.

37. The Committee continued to cooperate with the Security Council Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), resolution 1373 (2001) and resolution 1988 (2011), and their experts, including through joint or coordinated outreach activities.

Civil society and the private sector

38. In its resolution 1540 (2004), the implementation of which is the responsibility of States, the Security Council called upon all States to develop appropriate ways to work with and inform industry and the public regarding their obligations emanating from the resolution. In 2012, in accordance with resolution 1977 (2011), the Committee and its experts continued to reach out to industry and the public to generate wider awareness of the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004) and to facilitate its effective implementation.

39. In this regard, the Committee participated in the Conference of International, Regional, and Subregional Industry Associations on resolution 1540 (2004) hosted by Germany in Wiesbaden, in cooperation with the Office for Disarmament Affairs, paving the way to follow up steps of the process, launched in Wiesbaden, that would result in increased interactions and activities in order to engage such professional associations in support of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by States.

40. Members and experts of the Committee also participated in the Non-proliferation and Disarmament Conference, organized in Brussels by the European Union Non-proliferation Consortium, that gathered a significant number of representatives from civil society, in particular from a wide network of more than 50 research centres of the Consortium. The Committee and its experts participated in other outreach events organized or attended by civil society.

D. Transparency and outreach

41. Transparency is an essential principle guiding the work and activities of the Committee, helping to enhance confidence, foster greater cooperation and raise the awareness of States; relevant international, regional and subregional organizations; civil society; and the private sector regarding issues relevant to resolution 1540 (2004), which facilitates the implementation of the resolution by States.

42. Transparency was enhanced through maintenance of the Committee's website, which continued to serve as an important medium for public awareness regarding issues relevant to resolution 1540 (2004). In accordance with resolution 1977 (2011), the Committee continued to institute transparency measures and activities, including by making the fullest possible use of its website.

43. With support from the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Department of Public Information, the work of redesigning of the Committee website, which was initiated in 2011, was accomplished by April 2012. On 11 April, the Office for Disarmament Affairs launched the redesigned website of the Committee: www.un.org/sc/1540. The upgraded website offers new elements that render it more user-friendly, informative and interactive. The content of the site is now organized according to the four main areas of the Committee's work: implementation; assistance; cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations; and transparency and outreach. In 2012, the website was updated regularly. Multimedia resources allow users to find a variety of sources for information on the work and activities of the Committee.

44. Outreach is one of the aspects of transparency, and its purpose is to utilize, methodically and efficiently, United Nations and Committee resources to reach wider, targeted audiences. In 2012, the Chair of the Committee participated in 7 events, Committee members in 8 events and the experts in 46 events.

45. An awareness-raising and outreach event, supported and hosted by Saudi Arabia, was held in New York in December 2012. On that occasion the Secretary-General made an address dedicated to the importance of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). The Chair of the Committee and the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs made statements in the same vein at the event.

46. Media outreach is important to raise public awareness of resolution 1540 (2004) and subsequent resolutions 1673 (2006), 1810 (2008), 1977 (2011) and 2055 (2012). In 2012, there were six United Nations press releases and briefings on, inter alia, events listed in annex I in relation to those resolutions. In this regard, the United Nations University organized, in cooperation with the Office for Disarmament Affairs, an event entitled "United Nations Security Council resolution 1540: a look at the 1540 Committee, its new mandate and efforts to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors", which was held on 20 January 2012 in New York. The event was attended by the Committee Chair, and experts, international and regional organizations, civil society and the general public as well as the media. The Committee noted with interest the launch of a new publication, "1540 Compass", focused specifically on the practical implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). The electronic journal is published by the Center for International Trade and Security of the University of Georgia (United States) in cooperation with the Office for Disarmament Affairs. The Chair of the Committee thanked the journal's editing team for the initiative and welcomed their support.

47. In 2012, the Committee continued sharing experiences by posting on its website information notes on outreach events attended by its representatives in order to increase transparency, raise awareness and facilitate implementation.

IV. Assessment of progress and future perspectives

A. Assessment of progress

48. In 2012, the Committee made progress in enhancing its engagement with Member States on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1540 (2004)

and 1977 (2011), guided by the established principles of transparency, equal treatment, cooperation and consistency in its approach.

49. Progress has been recorded by the Committee on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by States. One State has submitted a first report, while six States have submitted additional information regarding their national implementation of the resolution. States have shared with the Committee information on effective practices and other related matters. Two States have submitted national action plans identifying priorities and plans to implement resolution 1540 (2004), and several States have announced their intention to develop such plans. Encouraging progress has been made in bilateral, tailored dialogue between the Committee and Member States.

50. Further efforts are required in the area of implementation, however, twenty-four Member States have yet to submit their first report to the Committee. In addition, more intensive efforts are needed to encourage the formal submission of voluntary additional information by those States that have already submitted reports. Furthermore, more work remains to be done to promote the sharing of information on effective implementation practices in a more systematic manner.

51. The facilitation of assistance and capacity-building has been a key aspect of the work of the Committee. Despite their commitment to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), some States lack the required legal and regulatory infrastructure, implementation experiences and/or resources to do so. The Committee and its experts have systematically promoted and sustained the clearing house function of the Committee, which is aimed at facilitating matchmaking between requests and offers of assistance. In this context, dialogues with providers of assistance, as well as with States that may need assistance, have been strengthened, resulting in more timely and in-depth discussions in those areas. Visits to States at their invitation have proved to be an effective tool in discussing assistance needs, while meetings with providers of assistance helped get a better understanding of assistance resources and processes.

52. That progress notwithstanding, additional efforts are needed to continue to better facilitate matchmaking. In this regard, a wider dialogue among all parties involved, including through formal correspondence, to foster better understanding of individual States' challenges, priorities and security perceptions and ascertain their needs would impart further momentum to those efforts.

53. In 2012, through continuous and intensified dialogue, the Committee and international, regional and subregional organizations and other entities have further enhanced their cooperation and information sharing on technical assistance and all other issues of relevance to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). In addition, the Committee has increased its engagement with civil society and the private sector, as appropriate. In accordance with resolutions 1540 (2004) and 1977 (2011), those activities generated wider awareness and discussion of effective practices facilitating the implementation of the resolutions, thereby paving the way for further interactions and activities in support of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by States.

54. Maintaining and further enhancing the level of cooperation would require a continuation of that dialogue. The nomination of points of contact or coordinators, as called for in resolution 1977 (2011), as well as constant updates by international,

regional and subregional organizations, have facilitated cooperative efforts and have allowed better use of resources offered by those organizations.

55. In 2012, considerable progress was made in enhancing the transparency of the work and achievements of the Committee through, inter alia, posting new information on the redesigned website. The transparent and inclusive approach followed by the Committee has been a key component of the successful promotion of resolution 1540 (2004) and its more effective implementation by States.

56. Ensuring transparency is a constant objective for the Committee. Additional efforts are needed, including an increased interaction between all interested parties, as well as more access to relevant information, as appropriate.

B. Looking ahead

57. Taking into account the recommendations contained in the report submitted to the Security Council on 12 September 2011 (S/2011/579) and building on the status and experience of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), the Committee may consider the following steps:

(a) Update and analyse, on an ongoing basis, the information compiled in the Committee's matrices and all additional information received from States. That would assist in a revision of the Committee's matrices as soon as possible;

(b) Elaborate ideas for a revised and improved matrix template, including by making it more user-friendly. In this regard the working group on monitoring and national implementation tasked the group of experts to provide the Committee with options by the end of February 2013;

(c) Continue to encourage Member States to submit on a voluntary basis additional information on steps they have taken or intend to take, including on effective national practices and voluntary national implementation plans;

(d) Seeking universal reporting by Member States, develop new opportunities for intensive bilateral discussions, including on existing challenges and gaps in the implementation of the resolution. In this regard, focus on a tailored dialogue with Member States which would be conducted, inter alia, through country-specific activities, including discussions with the relevant Permanent Missions to the United Nations and visits to States upon invitation or, if necessary, through formal correspondence, for better understanding of their particular concerns and assistance needs in order to facilitate their implementation tasks. Intensify preparations for meetings on assistance, which aim to facilitate the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by addressing important matters in this area, as encouraged in resolution 1977 (2011);

(e) Optimize the efficiency of the Committee's work during its 10-year mandate through its annual programme of work, which includes, as necessary, specific priorities for its work in order to promote the full implementation by States of resolution 1540 (2004) in all its aspects;

(f) Increase efforts to identify assistance needs through dialogues at workshops, bilateral meetings, country-specific activities and other forums; encourage the submission of formal assistance requests; and encourage potential assistance providers to make offers;

(g) Continue to promote visits to States at their invitation and country-specific activities, drawing on the experience gained and lessons learned in order to identify effective practices with a view to developing a compilation thereof, as appropriate;

(h) Develop the Committee's strategy on engaging international, regional and subregional organizations and other entities to facilitate the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), including on information sharing and exchange of experiences;

(i) Identify relevant activities of international and regional organizations and encourage them to inform the Committee, as appropriate, of the areas in which they are able to provide relevant assistance;

(j) Continue to encourage the designation of points of contact by all relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, and consider establishing a network between them that would include the Committee;

(k) Facilitate cooperation of the Committee with regional coordinators designated by relevant organizations such as CARICOM, OSCE and the Central American Integration System for advancing the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004);

(l) Continue to interact with relevant civil society entities and the private sector with, as appropriate, the consent of their State, on sharing information and experiences with the Committee on activities related to resolution 1540 (2004), in order to help define the parameters of their involvement in the process of its implementation;

(m) Continue to enhance the Committee's communication activities, in particular through its website.

Annex I

Outreach events held in 2012 attended by the Chair, members and/or experts of the Committee

Date	*Title*	*Location*	*Organizer/sponsor*
Visits to States, at their invitation			
30 January-1 February	Visit to Albania, at its invitation, to discuss the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)	Albania	Albania
9 February	Additional site visit as a part of the visit to the United States of America	United States	United States
22-24 May	Visit to Madagascar to discuss the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)	Madagascar	Madagascar
18-21 June	Visit to the Congo to discuss the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)	Congo	Congo
Other country-specific activities			
5-9 March	Consultation meeting with officials of Kyrgyzstan to establish and coordinate further steps in development of a national action plan	Vienna	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA)
20-21 March	Working meeting on export control legislation, implementation of the Firearms Protocol and Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and a panel meeting on the current status of the national action plan on resolution 1540 (2004)	Chisinau	Government of the Republic of Moldova and OSCE, support from ODA, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the European Union/Federal Office of Economics and Export Control
26-30 March	Consultation meeting with officials of Belarus to establish and coordinate further steps in the development of a national action plan	Vienna	OSCE and ODA

Date	*Title*	*Location*	*Organizer/sponsor*
12 June	National round table meeting on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)	Skopje	Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Conflict Prevention Center of OSCE in cooperation with ODA
3 October	National round table meeting on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)	Podgorica	Government of Montenegro and the Conflict Prevention Center of OSCE in cooperation with ODA
26 June	Technical meeting on the implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention and Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)	Quito	United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean of UNODA and the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre, in cooperation with the Ministry of Defense of Ecuador
23-24 October	National round table meeting on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)	Dushanbe	Government of Tajikistan and the Conflict Prevention Center of OSCE in cooperation with ODA
Other outreach activities			
20 January	United Nations University event entitled "United Nations Security Council resolution 1540: a look at the 1540 Committee, its new mandate and efforts to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors"	New York	United Nations University in cooperation with ODA
24-26 January	Regional workshop on Customs procedures and licensing issuance: integrating the national processing of dual-use goods and conventional weapons through information sharing	Valletta	OSCE with the support of ODA
24-25 January	Group of Eight Global Partnership Working Group meeting	Washington, D.C.	United States under its presidency of the Group of Eight and the Global Partnership Working Group

Date	*Title*	*Location*	*Organizer/sponsor*
30 January-3 February	European Security and Defence College course on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems	Brussels	Federal College for Security Studies in Berlin, the Institute for Higher National Defence Studies in Paris and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London
31 January-2 February	Topical meeting entitled "The Nuclear Security Plan 2010-2013: establishment of self-sustaining nuclear security support centres"	Vienna	International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
3-4 February	European Union Non-proliferation and Disarmament Conference	Brussels	European Union Non-proliferation Consortium
6 February	Nuclear security information exchange	Vienna	IAEA
7-9 February	The Nineteenth Asian Export Control Seminar	Tokyo	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Centre for Information on Security Trade Controls
15-16 February	Meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Working Group on Border Management related to Counter-Terrorism	Brussels	Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the World Customs Organization
20-21 February	Round table meeting on Coordination needs and practices related to Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)	Vienna	OSCE and ODA
20-21 February	Workshop on cooperation between regional and subregional organizations in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and Security Council resolutions	Cairo	League of Arab States with the support of the UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch
8-9 March	The fourth Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum Intersessional Meeting on Non-proliferation and Disarmament	Sydney, Australia	Governments of Australia and the Philippines

Date	*Title*	*Location*	*Organizer/sponsor*
12-14 March	Seminar for the States in the Andean region on Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)	Bogota	Government of Colombia, the Stimson Center and the Stanley Foundation, in cooperation with the Organization of American States and ODA
13-15 March	Group of Eight Global Partnership Working Group meeting	Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States	United States under its presidency of the Group of Eight and the Global Partnership Working Group
13-15 March	Regional workshop on Customs procedures and licensing issuance: integrating the national processing of dual-use goods and conventional weapons through information sharing	Ashgabat, Turkmenistan	OSCE and ODA
3-7 April	Training on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)	Dushanbe	OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre together with the OSCE Border Management Staff College and in cooperation with ODA
16 April	The Third International Working Group Discussion "Global Partnership — 2012 and Beyond"	Miami, United States	International Working Group — Landau Network Centro Volta in collaboration with the United States Department of State
17-18 April	Group of Eight Global Partnership Working Group meeting	Miami, United States	United States under its presidency of the Group of Eight and the Global Partnership Working Group
23-25 April	Conference of International, Regional, and Subregional Industry Associations on Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)	Wiesbaden, Germany	ODA, in cooperation with the Government of Germany, with funding from the Governments of Norway and the United States and the European Union
1 May	Implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on the African continent	Washington, D.C.	Stimson Center

Date	*Title*	*Location*	*Organizer/sponsor*
14-15 May	Conference on working with the European Union Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence and concrete roles for stakeholders and European Union partners	Brussels	European Union
21 May	Turtle Bay security round table on opportunities to prevent proliferation of conventional weapons	New York	Permanent Missions of Japan, Poland and Turkey to the United Nations, in cooperation with the Stimson Center
22 June	Conference on Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence	New York	United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute and the European Union
28-29 August	Group of Eight Global Partnership Working Group meeting	Stockholm	United States under its presidency of the Group of Eight and the Global Partnership Working Group
13-14 September	Workshop entitled "Science collaboration and security: new chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear challenges and threats reduction programmes beyond 2012"	Cernobbio-Como, Italy	International Working Group — Landau Network Centro Volta, with the contribution of the United States National Nuclear Security Administration and in cooperation with the United States Department of State Bureau of International Security and Non-proliferation
3-4 October	The 11th Meeting of Heads of Special Services, Security Agencies and Law-Enforcement Organizations	Moscow	Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation
9-11 October	Regional workshop on Customs procedures and licensing issuance: integrating the national processing of dual-use goods and conventional weapons through information sharing	Kyiv	OSCE in cooperation with ODA

Date	*Title*	*Location*	*Organizer/sponsor*
22 October	The 4th Meeting of the International Working Group	San Francisco, United States	International Working Group — Landau Network Centro Volta with the contribution of the United States National Nuclear Security Administration and in cooperation with the United States Department of State
23-24 October	Group of Eight Global Partnership Working Group meeting	Livermore, California, United States	United States under its presidency of the Group of Eight and the Global Partnership Working Group
8-9 November	International meeting on chemical safety and security	Tarnów	Government of Poland and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in cooperation with the Group of Eight Global Partnership and international partners
14-16 November	Conference on strategic trade controls enforcement	Brussels	World Customs Organization
21-22 November	Workshop on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) for African States	Pretoria	Government of South Africa in collaboration with the African Union, supported by ODA and with the facilitation of the Institute for Security Studies
30 November-1 December	Workshop on building new synergies on nuclear security	New Delhi	Government of India in cooperation with ODA
6-7 December	Workshop on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear and maritime terrorism for ASEAN countries	Bangkok	UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch and the Government of Japan

Annex II

Outreach events held in 2012 not attended by the Chair, members and/or experts of the Committee*

Date	*Title*	*Location*	*Organizer/sponsor*
24-25 January	Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate stakeholders' coordinating meeting	Abuja	Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, working in cooperation with Nigeria, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the United Nations Development Programme
8 March	Seminar on combating weapons of mass destruction and terrorism	Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany	United States Department of Defense Counter-Terrorism Fellowship Program, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency and the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies
19 April	International seminar on lessons and prospects of multilateral cooperation on nuclear security and non-proliferation	Moscow	The Russian Centre for Policy Studies in cooperation with the International Science and Technology Centre
22 May	Nuclear security information exchange meeting	Vienna	International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
24-26 May	International Conference on Biosafety and Biosecurity	Rabat	Moroccan Biological Safety Association
28-29 May	National round table meeting in support of the preparation of a national implementation action plan	Tashkent	Government of Uzbekistan and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in cooperation with the Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA)
30-31 May	National round table meeting in support of the preparation of a national implementation action plan	Astana	Government of Kazakhstan and OSCE in cooperation with ODA

* The list includes those events for which the Committee received an invitation from the organizers/sponsors, but the Chair, members or the experts of the Committee did not attend. The reasons for non-attendance were varied and included, inter alia, conflict with other events, lack of a speaking role at the event or financial constraints.

Date	*Title*	*Location*	*Organizer/sponsor*
5 June	Pacific Islands Forum Working Group on Counter-Terrorism	Suva	Pacific Islands Forum Working Group in cooperation with the Government of New Zealand
5-6 June	Workshop on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)	Vilnius	Conflict Prevention Centre of OSCE in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania and ODA
14-15 June	Annual North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Conference on Weapons of Mass Destruction Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-proliferation	Budapest	NATO Weapons of Mass Destruction Centre
21-22 June	Consultations with regional organizations on the Joint Plan of Action for Central Asia for implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy	Almaty, Kazakhstan	Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia
28-29 June	International conference on global biosafety and biosecurity	Johannesburg, South Africa	International Federation of Biosafety Associations
28-29 June	International Arab Banking Summit 2012 entitled "The change"	Berlin	Union of Arab Banks in cooperation with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the European Banking Federation and the International Bankers Forum
12-13 July	Workshop entitled "Implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004): innovative approaches to capacity-building and assistance"	Warsaw	Government of Poland in cooperation with ODA and the Stimson Center
16-20 July	15th Annual Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering	Brisbane, Australia	Government of Australia

Date	*Title*	*Location*	*Organizer/sponsor*
18 July	Global Partnership Biological Security Sub-working Group	Geneva	United States under its presidency of the Group of Eight Global Partnership against the spread of weapons and materials of mass destruction
16-20 July	Biological Weapons Convention Meeting of Experts	Geneva	Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit
9-10 October	Advanced research workshop on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) entitled "Political, scientific and technological approaches to the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)"	Chisinau	NATO and the Republic of Moldova
15-19 October	Financial Action Task Force plenary and working group meetings	Paris	Financial Action Task Force
22-24 October	Topical meeting on the implementation of the International Network for Nuclear Security Training and Support Centres	Vienna	IAEA
5-6 November	European Union seminar to promote confidence-building and in support of a process aimed at establishing a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and means of delivery in the Middle East	Brussels	European Union Non-proliferation Consortium with the support of the European Union
6 November	IAEA working-level nuclear security information exchange meeting	Vienna	Office of Nuclear Security of IAEA
21-23 November	Conference entitled "The G-8 Global Partnership: assessment and options for future programming in the fields of nuclear and radiological security"	Moscow	Rosatom and the Group of Eight Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction

Date	*Title*	*Location*	*Organizer/sponsor*
2-4 December	The eleventh Republic of Korea-United Nations Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Issues	Jeju, Republic of Korea	Republic of Korea
3 December	Symposium to mark the twentieth anniversary of the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Programme	Washington, D.C.	United States Department of Defense, Office of the Secretary